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THE TIMES

J. Pierpont Morgan, the corsair and the collector, page 5

Mr Carter transfers $1,000m of gold to London to secure release of hostages

Tehran and Washington were on the verge of agreement last night on the release of the American hostages. President Carter may fly to greet them in Germany if they are freed before Mr Reagan's inauguration on Tuesday. The President has released $2.200m of gold and securities to clear the way. Two Bank of England officials flew to Algiers to help

Feverish work to complete deal

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 16

With just four days of President Carter's term of office left, senior members of his Administration were working feverishly here and in Algiers today to try to put the finishing touches to an agreement with Iran for the release of the 52 American hostages.

In a clear indication that a solution to the crisis might finally be in sight, the United States Treasury announced that the Administration was preparing to release about $2,200m worth of frozen Iranian assets.

A spokesman said that under orders from President Carter, the Administration was in the process of making available in London about 1,600,000 ounces of gold worth about $1,000m. The gold represents the amount of Iranian gold held in the vaults of the New York Federal Reserve Bank since the freeze on Iranian assets was imposed.

The gold involved weighs about 50 tons but it will not be transferred physically to London, according to bankers here. Britain would supply the gold to Iran from its own reserves.

The second step was the sale of Treasury securities worth about $1,200m also owned by the Iranians. The spokesman added that the completion of these moves would "permit the prompt transfer (of funds) to an escrow account in Iran if an agreement can be reached and the hostages released".

Mr Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, said that Washington hoped to have its response to Iran's terms in Tehran by tomorrow morning. If the hostages were released before Mr Reagan's inauguration on Tuesday, President Carter might fly to West Germany when the hostages treatment, he added.

The negotiations here and in Algiers were expected to continue well into the weekend and senior members of the Administration like Mr Edmund Muskie, the Secretary of State, and Mr William Miller, the Treasury Secretary, were clearing their diaries of other appointments to continue their deliberations on the technical details of an agreement.

Today's comings and goings by members of the outgoing Administration included the arrival in the Algerian capital of a group of American legal and financial experts, who have flown in from London trying to work out details of the unfreezing of Iranian assets in American banks here and overseas.

The group also includes two British officials from the Bank of England who are advising the Administration about the legal position of Iranian funds frozen in British branches of American banks. The American members of the group include representatives of government departments like the State Department and the Treasury, as well as a spokesman for the Federal Reserve and private American banks.

A State Department spokesman explained that the presence of the experts was required in Algiers to "explore the mechanical and technical aspects" of a proposed deal. Together with Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, they are looking at a detailed and complex document handed to the United States yesterday with Iran's latest proposals for sending the hostages home.

One of the main problems of working out any deal for the release of the hostages has always been the practical and legal complexities of freeing the several billion dollars worth of Iranian assets which were frozen soon after the hostages were seized in November, 1979. Not only are the funds spread among a number of banks here and abroad, but there are also a whole series of outstanding legal claims against them.

The State Department acknowledged as much in the statement it issued here early today. "If, after further study of its several aspects, the approach (the latest Iranian offer) appears to be fair, valid and technically feasible, it will require the cooperation of a large number of individuals and institutions to achieve results in the remaining time", it said.

Nevertheless, "the Iranian response appears to be a promising approach and is being explored on an urgent basis in Washington and Algiers", the statement added.

In the American capital, Mr Muskie, the Secretary of State, summoned a group of legal and financial representatives from about 12 American banks to discuss the mechanics of unfreezing the assets. A State Department spokesman explained that the banks had been discussing the problem of unfreezing Iranian assets among themselves for four or five months and their conclusions were now being sought by the Administration. Mr Muskie and President Carter have been studying the latest Iranian message continually since it was transmitted to Washington about lunchtime yesterday.

There have, however, once again been public warnings from members of the Administration against over-optimism. In a television interview this morning, Mr Walter Mondale, the Vice-President, said he thought it was well to keep the situation in the right perspective.

"There are obviously some encouraging signs, but we have had our hearts broken so many times in the past, I think it's well to keep our expectations reduced", he said. He explained that some "very complex matters" were involved in the negotiations, which, in normal business world, might normally take weeks or months to resolve. "We're trying to do it in minutes", he said.

During this final flurry of activity by the outgoing Administration, President-elect Ronald Reagan is being kept fully informed about the state of the hostage negotiations. A spokesman for the incoming Administration said that Mr Reagan was being kept abreast with developments on a "minute-to-minute" basis.

Algiers consultations: Financial and legal experts, who arrived here today to study Iran's latest proposals, had discussions late this afternoon with Algerian foreign affairs officials (Agence France-Presse reports from Algiers).

The experts, six Americans and two Bank of England officials, had first met Mr Warren Christopher, chief American hostage negotiator and Deputy Secretary of State. They then broke up into separate groups to examine "diverse questions" before meeting the Algerians.

Earlier today, Iranian officials indicated that agreement had been reached with the United States on the amount of money to be deposited in a third-party nation for payment to Tehran when the hostages are freed. Dollar surges, page 19

The Iranian sources suggested that the only detail left unsettled was the actual transfer of the money.

Dollar surges, page 19
Mr Carter's farewell, page 4

Mr John Trattner, State Department spokesman: Hopes brighter than ever before.

Bank of England sends officials to Algiers

By Roman Eisenstein

Two Bank of England officials, Mr Kit McMahon, the Deputy Governor, and Mr David Somerset, the Chief Cashier, joined other passengers on a United States Air Force aircraft which landed at Heathrow Airport, London, on its way to Algeria.

The dozen or so passengers included representatives of the United States Federal Reserve System, the country's central bank, private American bankers as well as government officials, including Mr William Lake, a legal adviser with the State Department.

A Bank of England spokesman said the officials had gone at the invitation of the Americans and the Algerians to help in the negotiations over the hostages.

There is speculation in London, however, that as well as helping sort out some knotty technical questions over blocked Iranian funds with branches of American banks in London, they might also help with arrangements for the transfer of any funds to the Algerian Central Bank which would take the money on behalf of the Iranians.

It is being suggested that the sum to be transferred to Algeria is about $5,500m (£2,300m) of which $1,000m is to be in gold bullion and the rest in currency. Such a process would by itself be full of problems.

Not least of these is that the Algerian Central Bank probably does not have a large enough capital base to take on deposits of such magnitude. In any event the money would eventually be recycled back through the banking system and be deposited with European or even American banks.

A normal money transfer would take at least 48 hours. If the negotiators want to achieve a quick deal then money for the Algerians might be transferred as a bookkeeping entry between central banks. To do that the Federal Reserve might use its facilities with European central banks which would simply place the money on an account for the Algerian Central Bank.

Steel men support survival plan in 3-1 vote

By Edward Townsend

British Steel workers have voted by a majority of more than three to one to accept the corporation's survival plan which envisages more mill closures, 22,000 redundancies, and a six-month wages freeze.

The Electoral Reform Society, which conducted the ballot, said that 65 per cent of voting papers were returned and that just over half of the entire workforce supported the plan.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the BSC chairman, said: "I am glad that there are sufficient people interested enough to support the management and this gives us the base on which to push ahead."

The corporation has to wait until Monday before the result of a rival ballot being conducted by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) is known. The union, the largest in the steel industry with 70,000 members at BSC, has described the corporation's ballot as "a waste of public money" and is expecting its members to vote against the survival plan.

The ISTC national executive council is to meet on Monday. A spokesman said that if there was a substantial "No" vote some "very harsh" decisions would have to be made, possibly including industrial action.

Mr William Sirs, the union's general secretary, said a majority vote in favour of the survival plan was expected in the BSC ballot because more than 35,000 employees in the corporation's non iron and steel subsidiaries, such as plastics, chemicals and engineering, were included. He claimed that "fear tactics" by executives had convinced most workers that if they did not vote "Yes" their own works would be shut.

The full result of the BSC ballot was: 124,616 papers issued; 81,391 returned of which 254 were blank or spoiled, there were 63,237 votes in favour (78 per cent of the valid vote) and 17,900 votes against the plan (22 per cent).

Mr MacGregor said the voting showed that BSC had a solid workforce with the right motivation and attitude. He complimented them on recognizing what had to be done although the results would mean redundancy for some.

British Steel lost £545m in its last financial year and is presently losing almost £2m a week. Losses in excess of £500m are likely again this year. Already the Government has had to boost BSC funding by a further £400m this year to a total of £1,000m.

The scale of the losses made it important for Mr MacGregor to win acceptance of the survival plan before making final representations to Whitehall for an additional £750m of state aid for next year.

He said yesterday that the ballot result would help him "convince the Government and presumably Parliament that our people are behind the programme which will, hopefully, gradually reduce the corporation's dependence on the enormous sums of money which it has needed in recent years to survive".

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, will announce the Government's aid decision this month.

Mr MacGregor already has won support for his plans from other unions in the industry. He said that the outcome of the ISTC ballot would make no difference to the corporation's policy. It could, however, undermine efforts to convince Parliament that the industry was entitled to public support.

Mr Sirs yesterday reiterated his view that the MacGregor plan failed to tackle the real problem of British Steel.

"The fact is that European steel producers receive massive state aid on energy, coking coal and transport while the BSC receives none," he said.

He added: "Unless the real problem is faced by BSC and the Government, Mr MacGregor will be forced to come back year after year demanding more and more closures."



Photograph by Brian Harris

Mr MacGregor, the BSC chairman, yesterday announcing support for the survival plan.

Chad President 'forced to agree to merger'

From Karan Thapar
Lagos, Jan 16

President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad was forced to agree to the proposed merger between his country and Libya, reliable sources close to the Nigerian President claim.

The actual agreement was, they say, signed at Tripoli airport as he was departing, apparently believing his life was in danger.

In a surprise development President Oueddei arrived in Lagos yesterday evening at the invitation of the Nigerian Government for urgent talks with President Shagari. It is believed that the purpose of the visit is to assure Chad of Nigeria's support.

According to the account given to me, while President Oueddei was attending the December summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lagos to determine the future of Chad, two senior Chadian Army commanders were invited to Tripoli. When President Oueddei visited Libya after the Lagos summit, he discovered that the officers had been killed

It was in Tripoli, according to the account given to me, that President Oueddei was presented with the fait accompli of a merger. He was also at the same time told that three or four Libyans were to be appointed to his Cabinet. It is believed that at first he resisted the Libyan pressure.

President Oueddei's transitional Government of national unity in Chad has been in what Nigerian officials call an invidious position since it asked for Libyan assistance in the civil war against the faction of Mr Hissene Habré, the former Defence Minister. According to intelligence reports, there are said to be up to 5,000 Libyan soldiers in Chad.

Observers in Lagos are unsure how much freedom of action the Chadian President retains. I was also told that President Oueddei was stopped from attending this week's OAU summit in Lomé, Togo, by Dr Ali Trieki, the Libyan Foreign Minister, who came to Lomé via Ndjamena, the Chad capital.

President Oueddei's arrival in Lagos late yesterday was hastily arranged at the invitation of President Shagari. President Oueddei arrived in a Nigerian Air Force aircraft accompanied by Vice-President Abdulkadir Kamougne, senior officials and two armed guards.

Chad poll pledge, page 4

Prior warning of big increase in jobless

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, issued a warning last night that there would be another "very big" rise in unemployment this month and the trend of the "appalling" jobless figures was likely to continue.

He coupled the warning with a firm statement of the Government's intention not to reverse its successful attack on inflation.

Speaking to engineering employers in the worst-affected areas of West Midlands, Mr Prior said that a reversal "would be no help to the unemployed at all.

"The best way we can help them and everyone else is to get down inflation and to fight for the future wealth of our country by helping industry to become more competitive and better able to win its share of home and overseas markets.

"No member of the Government seeks to deny that this is a difficult time, particularly on the jobs front. We must expect to see another very big rise when the January employment figures come out. The underlying rise will be strongly reinforced by the usual seasonal factors.

"The rise will inevitably continue into the year, although we do expect it to ease off as time goes on". But these appalling figures are, sadly, the inevitable consequence of many years of decline, of a failure of past attempts to reverse that decline.

As an indication of the Government's concern at levels of unemployment, Mr Prior pointed in particular to the youth opportunities programme, which would be helping 440,000 a year.

Shore attack: In his first speech outside Parliament since becoming shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Peter Shore said last night that the Conservative Party was increasingly becoming the enemy of British manufacturing industry (our Parliamentary Staff writes).

Manufacturing output was 16 per cent lower than it was when Mrs Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister and nearly three quarters of the increased job loss has taken place in manufacturing industry, he said.

Speaking in Coventry, he said: "It is Britain's industry and major cities that are bearing the brunt of this Government's inept and cruel economic policies."

McAliskeys still seriously ill as three men are questioned about shooting

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, who during the heady civil rights campaigns in the late 1960s became the youngest MP in the Commons, was still seriously ill last night after being shot at her home in Northern Ireland.

A medical bulletin late last night said that her condition had worsened during the evening. Her husband Michael is also seriously ill but his condition was said to be stable.

Both are in the intensive care unit of Musgrave Park Hospital in the southern suburbs of Belfast.

Three men with "loyalist" connexions are being questioned by police.

The attackers used a sledgehammer to break down the door of the McAliskey's remote home at the end of a narrow bog road in Derrylaughan, four miles from Coalisland, co Tyrone. Mrs McAliskey, aged 34, was shot twice in the right leg and once in the left leg. Bullets grazed her chest. Her husband has wounds to the head, stomach, and right arm.

A patrol of paratroops in the area heard shots at about 8.15 am and soon afterwards the three men were seized. Three guns were found. An Army helicopter took the couple to hospital and police said prompt medical attention by the soldiers may have saved them from bleeding to death.

Mrs McAliskey recently emerged from a period of relative political inactivity to become the spokesman of the national H Blocks committee. She told friends she thought she might be attacked.

The shooting came on a day of Provisional IRA violence. Mr Ivan Toombs, aged 42, a part-time major in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was shot dead at Warrenpoint Harbour, co Down, where he worked as a senior customs officer. Four years ago he was wounded by terrorists at Newry customs post about six miles away.

Mr Toombs, a UDR member for several years, was murdered by two youths. They approached the customs office on a motor cycle soon after 11 am. One held a customs officer at gunpoint while the other searched for Mr Toombs, who was alone in his office. He was shot several times.

The IRA, which admitted the shooting, also destroyed the popular Gables restaurant in Botanic Avenue in the university district of the city with three fire bombs. It was the first big daylight bomb attack by the IRA in more than two months and may mark the end of the lull in violence that began in October when the Ulster prison crisis began to build-up.

The Army defused a 240lb bomb contained in three milk churns in the boot of a car near Armagh. It was probably intended for a passing police patrol.

The resurgence of terrorist activity came as Protestant leaders in the border area of co Fermanagh announced the creation of a new group to campaign for tighter border security.

Sixty people have been murdered in the area in the past 11 years. The group, the Fermanagh Committee for the Defence of British Democracy, agrees, however, that the situations has improved in the past few months because of greater activity by the police and the army.

The attack on Mrs McAliskey comes after the murder of four prominent republicans by Protestant paramilitary groups: Mr Noel Lyttle, Mr Ronald Bunting, Mrs Miriam Daly, and Mr John Turnley.

The McAliskeys' children were at home but escaped injury. They are Deirdre, aged five, Fintan, aged two, and

Continued on page 2, col 3

UK inflation eases again

Britain's inflation rate eased in December, but its foreign trade surplus fell. The retail price index rose 0.5 per cent to give a year-on-year increase of 15.1 per cent compared with 15.3 per cent in November. The visible trade surplus last month was £246m, compared with £455m in November. The surplus for 1980 was £2,281m against a deficit in 1979 of £1,670m. Manufacturing output showed a further drop Page 19

Reagan man's problem

Mr Raymond Donovan, President-elect Reagan's nominee for Secretary of Labour, has run into serious problems at his confirmation hearing in Washington. There are reports that the FBI has obtained a testimony alleging unethical practices by Mr Donovan's New Jersey building firm Page 4

Secrecy debate pledge

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, has promised Commons time, if there is widespread and general concern, to discuss select committee grievances of ministers refusing to release information the committees wanted Page 3

720 jobs to go

Four hundred and eighty jobs are to disappear at Smedley HP Foods, part of Imperial Group and 240 at the printing and machinery plant of Linotype & Machinery, which is at Altrincham, near Manchester Page 19

Solidarity seeking links with Western unions

Solidarity is to develop relations with Italian and other Western trade unions. In talks with three of Italy's union confederations Mr Lech Walesa, the movement's leader who is visiting Rome, said that common interest united unions in the two countries. Page 4

Seamen strike threat

Leaders of the seamen's union will decide on Monday whether to intensify their week-long campaign of industrial action by calling a two-day national strike next week Page 2

Labour damage warning

Mrs Shirley Williams described next Saturday's special Labour Party conference as a "miserable business" and said that the party's chances would be seriously damaged if it adopted anything like the national executive committee's electoral college proposals Page 2

TUC protest: Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, opened the labour movement's new phase of protest against government economic policies 2

Rome: Signor Forlani wins confidence vote after strong criticism 3

Taking your car abroad: A three-page Special Report on routes, costs and cross-Channel services 11-13

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[illegible], aged 46, [illegible] Lane, Plaistow [illegible] nied taking [illegible] dshire robbe[illegible] nanded for t[illegible]

Police arrest Charles Richardson

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Charles Richardson, the former London gang leader who absconded from open prison last year, was yesterday arrested in a west London street by two police officers.

Five other people were also arrested and last night all six were being held at Kensington police station. It is possible Mr Richardson may be charged with an offence later.

Scotland Yard refused to give details of how the arrest occurred. Apparently it was felt by senior police officers that after the furore surrounding the arrest of Mr Peter Sutcliffe in Yorkshire it would be better not to run the risk of breaching the contempt law.

But it is understood that Mr Richardson, who fled Springhill Prison, Buckinghamshire, last May, was arrested outside a shop in Hogarth Place, Earls Court.

The arrest shortly after 1 pm, was made by Woman Police Constable Gwen Underwood, aged 22, and Police Constable Martin Lloyd, aged 28, who were in plain clothes and on detachment to the Kensington crime squad. They were carrying out a raid unconnected with the search for Mr Richardson.

Police are also believed to have seized a vehicle.

PC Lloyd said there was a slight struggle in the street but no police officer was injured.

Last night detectives from the Thames Valley force, who have been in charge of the hunt for Mr Richardson, were on their way to London but it is thought Mr Richardson will not go back to prison for some days.

Earlier this week the Daily Star newspaper published a telephone interview with Mr Richardson, in which he described attending a Christmas party for children in a London public house dressed as Father Christmas.

He claimed he had been stopped recently in northern Eng-

Continued on page 2, col 4



HOME NEWS

Seamen's leaders to decide on call to intensify action with two-day national strike next week

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Seamen's leaders are planning to intensify their week-long campaign of industrial action with a two-day national strike next week which is almost certain to halt all British-crewed passenger ferries from the United Kingdom.

A final decision on the strike on Wednesday and Thursday will be taken at a meeting on Monday of 70 shop stewards and branch officials of the National Union of Seamen from ports around the country.

Mr James Slater, the union's general secretary, said last night that calls to intensify the action had come from union members who had been angered by provocation from certain employers. He said that some ratings taking industrial action had been paid off by their employers and others, most of whom were abroad, had been deprived of hot water and food.

A meeting yesterday of the union's central dispute committee decided on the new move and will be recommending it to Monday's meeting.

If the strike goes ahead there will be no movements of British-owned ships from British ports and ratings on British ships who are in ports abroad will also strike. Ships at sea will not be affected, neither will passenger liners and oil rig supply vessels which are covered by different agreements.

Mr Slater said: "There has been very strong feeling among our members for an all-out stoppage to take place. At the moment our strategy is working, but the dispute committee is going to go some way towards appeasing our members."

He said that the union rule, under which the NUS has to hold a ballot of its 30,000 members if more than half of them are called out on strike, did not apply because about three-quarters of the membership is always away from Britain.

The union said that the number of ships affected by its action was increasing daily, and by last night 187 vessels were tied up in British or foreign ports. Mr Slater said the crews of a further 103 ships, now at sea, had promised to take action when they arrive in port.

Employers' leaders disputed the figures and said that only 56 ships had been prevented from sailing. The discrepancy could be because the union takes into its count all ships whose crews are taking industrial action, while the employers count only those that have been prevented from leaving port on time.

Mr Slater adopted an uncompromising attitude to the hint from the employers earlier this week that the 12 per cent pay increase that had been offered and then withdrawn might be offered again in a different form.

He said that for the dispute to be called off there would have to be an increase in the basic offer, agreement by the employers that all overtime should be paid at the rate of time and a half, and consolidation for overtime purposes of a £5-a-week efficiency service payment.

Mr Patrick Shovelton, director general of the General Council of British Shipping, said last night that the threat to intensify the dispute would only worsen the situation.

In a related development yesterday, union leaders representing 30,000 merchant navy officers received a revised offer of a 10.5 per cent pay rise to run for 10 months. The offer includes five extra days' holiday.

Ferry turns back: The British Rail Sealink ferry, Vortigern, 4,300 tons, returned to Dover yesterday after a fire in her engine room which the ship's crew put out off Calais (our Folkestone Correspondent writes). No one was hurt. British Rail said the ferry would be out of service for at least 48 hours.

Williams onslaught on leadership proposals

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Describing next Saturday's Labour Party conference as "a miserable business", Mrs Shirley Williams said last night that if the party adopted anything resembling the national executive committee's electoral college proposals "it will have seriously damaged Labour's electoral chances".

She added that in turning away from the secret ballot and one man one vote, two reforms through which the party had first won power, the party would be taking "a long step back to a discredited system".

Mrs Williams, still a member of the national executive although she has implied she might join a new party, did not discuss her plans last night. In November she announced she could not stand as a Labour parliamentary candidate because she could not defend the party's policies.

In her speech to a meeting of Northfield constituency party members in Birmingham last night, she disparaged all the proposals for electing the party leader by block vote, including the version supported by Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Foot hopes that the option of giving half of any electoral college vote to the party's MPs and a quarter each to trade unions and constituency parties with affiliated bodies will attract union support in next week's vote.

Even though MPs at present have the sole right to elect the leader, Mr Foot hopes that by retaining half the total vote for them any potential breakaways will be given pause. But Mrs Williams exposed the compromises last night.

She said the 200 resolutions on the conference agenda indicated "no consensus whatever". It "would challenge Solomon himself" to sort out the differences in six or seven hours at a mass conference at Wembley; instead, if the leadership election method needed changing, it required "much more care and concern for its future health than the present rushed and botched operation".

Mrs Williams complained that almost none of the proposals included any method for trade unions to ballot their members, and none made watertight provisions for excluding members and supporters of other parties.

"For the election of the party's leader it is patently obvious that supporters of other parties should not be permitted a vote or a voice, for the interests of the party are not their interests. The only method that can be described honestly as democratic, other than the present one, is one-member one-vote, by secret ballot."

Party "not divided": Mr Frank Allaun, Labour MP for Salford, East, said yesterday it was "complete balderdash" to allege that Labour was seriously split (the Press Association reports).

He told a meeting at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology: "Contrary to what nearly all the national newspapers are claiming, Labour is in better spirits than ever before in its history. It is astonishing, at a time when a poll shows Labour 24 per cent ahead, that the impression is being deliberately created that the party is collapsing or in fatal disarray."

In brief

Bosanquet claim of epilepsy

Reginald Bosanquet, aged 48, the former news reader, said yesterday that he is suffering from a form of epilepsy which could strike at any time.

He spoke at Bow Street Magistrates' Court of his illness after a summons for being drunk and disorderly against him was adjourned until March 11.

He told Mr Evelyn Russell, the magistrate: "I plead most categorically not guilty." Mr Russell told him that if he failed to reappear the case could be proved in his absence, and if convicted he could be fined. Failure to pay the fine could result in jail.

Woman charged with arson

Miss Rosalind Palmer, aged 20 a beauty therapist, of Gosfield Street, London, was charged with arson and manslaughter last night after a fire in a West End lodging house in which a man died. She will appear before Marylebone magistrates today.

The dead man, Mr Nicola Sabatini, was a waiter. Another man was injured.

Man in deaths inquiry

A man detained in London is helping police inquiries into the deaths of Mrs Doris Watson, aged 52, and her sister, Miss Margaret Anderson, aged 60, whose bodies were found in Miss Anderson's flat in Elgin Terrace, Edinburgh, late on Monday night.

Search for lost cyanide

Police searched the south coast of England yesterday for a canister of potassium cyanide which, they say, could kill one thousand people. It disappeared from a lorry travelling from Poole, in Dorset, to Portsmouth.

Good works at Ford

Five thousand Ford workers from the Halewood plant on Merseyside gave £195,000 in back pay to help to build a five-bed kidney unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, which was officially opened yesterday.

Abbey wall unearthed

The Oxford Archaeological Unit has unearthed the wall of a thirteenth-century Cistercian abbey beneath a commercial and housing development site at Oxford station.

RSPCA's success

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, secured 1,400 convictions against animal cruelty last year, the highest number since 1939.

Canal tunnel repair

Britain's longest canal tunnel, at Blisworth, Northamptonshire, is to be closed for the summer for repairs to loose brickwork.

Teachers' jobs saved

An increase in the Government rate support grant has saved 40 teaching jobs in Northamptonshire and also means nearly 50 foreign language assistants can be reinstated.

Flower ban lifted

The Government is to lift a ban on chrysanthemum imports from Holland, introduced before Christmas to keep two horticultural diseases, white rust and American leaf miner, out of Britain.

Photograph by John Pridmore

Police officers Martin Lloyd and Gwen Underwood who arrested Charles Richardson.

Richardson grievance over parole

Continued from page 1

land for speeding in his car but the policeman failed to recognize him and let him off with a caution.

He told the newspaper he kept himself occupied with business interests and a little travel, saying that he would give himself up when he had finished work on a book.

Mr Richardson was convicted in 1967 with his brother and a number of other men, after a trial which disclosed torture and violence in the London underworld. Mr Richardson, described as leader of a south London gang, was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment.

His decision to walk out of Springhill Prison just over six months ago was apparently influenced by the seventh refusal of his parole.

After he vanished he sent a letter to *The Times* expressing his feelings about the effects of prison life and the frustrations of being refused parole. He told *The Times* he left prison because further incarceration would accelerate the deterioration he detected within him.

He said that he had never committed murder and yet had served a longer sentence than the average murderer. He added that there should be an objective reappraisal of his trial, conviction, and sentence which would support the contention of his family and prison governors that he should be given conditional release.

In the first few weeks after he disappeared there were promises that he would surrender himself. He was interviewed by journalists in Paris and was later reported to be living somewhere in London.

ILEA finds cheating by workers

By Our Education Correspondent

Serious irregularities by direct-labour maintenance workers employed by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) involving thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money are revealed in a confidential report drawn up by the authority's chief financial officer.

The report confirms allegations by Mr Eric Faulkner, an ILEA buildings supervisor until his dismissal last summer, that about 60 maintenance workers in the authority's north-west region were falsifying time sheets, claiming payment for unnecessary work, and cheating on the bonus system for overtime.

Mr Faulkner said that the ILEA offered yesterday to reemploy him in a different region. He refused on the ground that if he accepted the offer it would seem that the men against whom he had made the allegations had been vindicated, whereas the opposite was the case.

The ILEA tried to transfer Mr Faulkner out of the north-west region last August after the accused men had brought complaints against him. When Mr Faulkner refused to move he was deemed to have dismissed himself.

The chief finance officer's report, which was put before a closed meeting of the ILEA staff committee yesterday, says: "This thorough investigation (by the GLC audit branch) revealed, in total, that almost 13 per cent of the work claimed by the operatives as having been done during one week had not been done at all".

The ILEA said last night that it wanted to keep the report confidential until the completion of various internal disciplinary hearings arising from the inquiry into the school buildings maintenance branch in the north-west region.

The authority took Mr Faulkner's allegations seriously and inquiries into the bonus arrangements in other parts of the authority since 1979 had resulted in disciplinary proceedings. About 30 men are believed to have been dismissed.

The GLC auditors would be writing to all departments employing direct labour urging that the working of bonus schemes be carefully examined urgently.

Mr Murray opens labour attack

By Our Labour Staff

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday fired the opening shots in a new phase of protest by the labour movement against the Government's economic policies, and accused ministers of adopting a "class ideology" aimed at dividing the nation.

Calling for a national recovery plan based on the widest possible agreement, he said the country needed boldly to use "public expenditure creatively and positively to start repairing the damage to the economy's infrastructure to get growth in output and employment in all sectors of the economy and to improve the quality of life".

In the next few months the TUC will publish its annual economic review, the broad outlines of which were foreshadowed yesterday by Mr Murray, and use the publication as a springboard for a wide-ranging campaign of demonstrations and protest culminating in a week of action in April.

Mr Murray, who was speaking in Salford at a meeting of the TUC's north-west regional council, maintained that the difficulties facing the country were not caused by a short-lived recession but were "the result of deep-seated weaknesses magnified by destructive government policies.

"The scale of these problems calls for a response which is broad in its vision, relevant in its analysis and comprehensive in its execution. There is an alternative and the TUC's strategy for national economic recovery sets out that positive response."

The abandonment of economic fortunes to market forces was not the only element that affected economic and social life. "At the root of this creed is the deliberate fostering of fear, the pursuit of selfish acquisitiveness.

"It is a class ideology the aim of which, let alone the result, is to divide our nation into rich and poor, weak and strong, employed and unemployed, whereas what we need above all is a plan for national recovery based on the widest possible consensus."

Such an agreement should include the trade union movement being encouraged to play a positive role.

Union angry at coal board plan for staff reductions

By Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent

National Coal Board plans for extensive cuts in its white-collar work force took union leaders by surprise yesterday. The executive of one of the main unions affected, the Colliery Officials and Staffs Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, instructed its members not to cooperate in the board's plans.

Dr Paul Glover, the board's director general of staff, told the unions that the immediate financial position of the industry meant that the board aimed to make a substantial reduction in non-industrial staff before March, 1982.

The union said there had been a total lack of consultation and accused the board of dictatorial methods. Up to 7,000 redundancies among administrative staff are being spoken of, but the board has given no official figures.

Mr Trevor Bell, general secretary of the staff union, which has 19,000 members, said last night: "Our immediate reaction is one of anger. As joint secretary of the national joint council for the staff side of the coal industry I had sight of the board's proposals for the first time today."

Mr Bell added: "We are telling our people that until such time as I and my colleagues have had a proper meeting with the coal board representatives, our members should not cooperate in the implementation of its programme."

A letter from Dr Glover says the board intends setting specific targets for reductions in all departments and activities.

Before vacancies are advertised, the organization of work and redeployment of staff will be considered. Early retirements and more effective use of staff will be encouraged.

External recruitment and employment of agency staff is to be banned nationally until March 31, and possibly beyond, although there may be specific exemptions.

McAliskeys still seriously ill after shooting

Continued from page 1

Rosalin, aged nine, who are being looked after by relatives. The couple have lived in the house near the shores of Lough Neagh for several years.

Mrs McAliskey became the youngest woman to sit at Westminster in April, 1969, as an Independent Unity member for Mid-Ulster.

She had been prominent in the civil rights marches from the outset. She took her seat on her twenty-second birthday after winning a by-election, and in her maiden speech said it was the arrival of a peasant in the halls of the great.

She lost her seat in February, 1974, and unsuccessfully fought the European Parliament elections in 1979.

Republic's condemnation: The Dublin Government condemned what it described as "the barbaric attack" on the McAliskeys (our Dublin Correspondent writes).

Mr Garret FitzGerald, leader of the Opposition party, Fine Gael, said he was horrified

'Handless corpse' trial told of drug runs

From Arthur Osman
Lancaster

Huge profits were made by the senior men of an international drug smuggling syndicate whose women couriers were paid "peanuts", the Crown stated at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday. The value of heroin carried in the false compartments of two suitcases had a street value of $A3m or £1.5m, it was added.

Mr Michael Maguire, QC, for the prosecution, said: "The men who enjoyed these profits would stop at absolutely nothing." The defendant Mr Sinclair, was the "Mr Big or Mr Ace" of the organization. He continued: "It is the case for the Crown that Sinclair, who amassed an immense fortune, could say who lived and who died."

Mr Maguire had alleged that another senior member of the syndicate, Mr Martin Johnstone, had been killed and the hands severed from his body.

Counsel said that Mr Andrew Maher and Mr James Smith, two more of the defendants, carried the amputated hands in a parcel to Scotland, where they were thrown into the River Almond.

Mr Maguire said it was obvious the chief risk to the murderers came from Mrs Julie Hu who had travelled to Britain from Singapore with Mr Johnstone. She was not particularly suspicious at first but as the days went by and he did not telephone it was likely she would start asking questions.

She and Miss Barbara Pilkington went to Spain to stay with Mr Maher's father, who ran a bar in Benidorm. Mrs Hu fretted about Mr Johnstone and in the end Miss Pilkington told her he had been murdered. They returned to Layland, Lancashire, and when Mrs Hu's mother heard what Miss Pilkington had to say she called the police.

Dealing with the counts alleging conspiracy to import or supply controlled drugs, Mr Maguire said that passports had been "like so much confetti" to the group, which made a mockery of rules relating to their issue.

The couriers were usually young women who travelled by air with the drugs strapped to their bodies. Later the drugs were carried in plastic bags in suitcases with false compartments.

Subsequently drugs were encased in fibre-glass to prevent dogs sniffing them out.

Five men are accused of Mr Johnstone's murder.

The trial continues on Monday.

Suicide doctor joined EXIT

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

Dr Ritchie Russell, aged 77, the Oxford neurologist who killed himself last month, was a member of EXIT, the group that supports euthanasia.

That was disclosed yesterday by Mr Nicholas Reed, the society's general secretary, who also disclosed that Kenneth Tynan, the theatre critic, who died last year, had been a society member.

Mrs Jean Russell, Dr Russell's widow, said he had been an EXIT member for about a year before he killed himself by electric shock in his home at Banbury Road, Oxford.

Council finance chief reinstated

Mr J. E. Halligan, director of finance at Lambeth, who was suspended on Monday, has been reinstated

Mr Halligan, who was back at his desk yesterday, still faces disciplinary charges brought against him by the council's chief executive, Mr Frank Dixon Ward, over a report

Nine rescued from trawler

By Ronald Faux
and John Chartres

Nine men were rescued by helicopter in blinding snow and 30ft waves from a Norwegian fishing vessel in the North Sea early yesterday.

One was struck by a winch block and was taken off first to be flown to hospital in Norway. The others from the 116-ton Hareidfjord were flown to the Norwegian Statfjord oil platform. They were uninjured.

Hours earlier nine Dutch airmen had been winched to safety after their patrol plane crashed in the sea 125 miles off the west Scottish coast.

Late on Thursday night the master of the fishing boat sent out an emergency call 130 miles north-east of Shetland saying that heavy seas had smashed the wheelhouse.

A British Airways S61 helicopter based in Shetland flew to the scene. A Norwegian helicopter from Stavanger had already taken off four of the men and the deck was awash. It was able to lift off the five remaining men while the S61 stood by.

Rescue triumphs, page 14

Thomson optimism on sale of 'Times' titles

By Dan van der Vat

The attempt by Thomson British Holdings Ltd to find a single buyer for *The Times*, its three supplements and *The Sunday Times* is running at least a week ahead of schedule, reliable sources indicated yesterday.

At the same time, speculation that Mr Rupert Murdoch, owner of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, had established himself as the front runner was dismissed as premature by at least one of the parties involved in talks about the future of the titles.

Mr Murdoch made a graceful apology for "being cagey with a journalist" yesterday but refused to add anything to remarks he made in a BBC radio interview last weekend which led to speculation that he was the leading contender.

Mr Gordon Brunton, managing director of Thomson British Holdings, said yesterday that there had been no change whatsoever in the position, and said suggestions about the field having been reduced to one were wrong.

Mr Brunton adhered to what he told the general secretaries of the printing unions last week; that he hoped to introduce a single bidder for all five papers to them "by the end of January". There were strong indications elsewhere yesterday, however, that he might be in a position to do so before the end of next week. Mr Brunton would say only that no statement was to be expected for two or three days.

Thomson British Holdings announced last October that it would close all five titles by the middle of March unless a buyer could be found. It commissioned the merchant bank, S. G. Warburg, to find one. Strict confidentiality was imposed by the company on the bank, potential bidders and its own representatives. A deadline for approaches of December 31 was laid down.

Contrary to scepticism in Fleet Street about the likelihood of a single buyer for the whole of Times Newspapers emerging in time to take on the company as a going concern, the Thomson strategy of imposing a timetable appears to have worked better than expected.

The company has been confident since the beginning of the year that it could name a potential buyer for all titles by the end of this month. It said last week that after the buyer had been identified he would be given about two weeks to reach agreement with the unions, or come close enough to it to make his bid unconditional by the middle of next month. If that was not achieved, the company would not go back to the other bidders for the whole company but would turn to offers for its parts.

There would be no auction among residual bidders for the whole company if the chosen front runner failed. It seemed clear last night that there would be no need for one, because Mr Murdoch and either one or two other potential buyers were engaged in simultaneous but separate talks, any one of which could lead to an early offer with only one condition attached: agreement with the unions. Speculation of an asking price for Times Newspapers of £55m was rejected as absurd.

Meanwhile Mr Harold Evans, editor of *The Sunday Times*, has been telling his journalistic staff this week about his plan for a consortium to take over the paper if the present talks fail. He was confident that he could produce convincing backers, a business plan for the first two years, a management structure and a financial structure.

Mr Evans has said much less about his plan than has been disclosed about a similar proposal by the Editor of *The Times*, backed by his editorial staff, for a consortium to run this newspaper and its supplements. It is understood that Mr Evans proposes a minority *shareholding and a journalistic* voice in the selection of the editor.

Mr Evans has also distributed ballot forms among his staff asking them to list five potential bidders for the whole of Times Newspapers in order of preference. No clear favourite had emerged by last night.

JOTT statement: Journalists of The Times Ltd (JOTT) said yesterday in a statement that the smooth operation of Times Newspapers, or any successor company, would be aided if journalists and other employees were enabled to have a shareholding, and if the board contained a proportion of members clearly seen to be sensitive to the interests of employees (a Staff Reporter writes). The board should also include a proportion of independent public figures.

A statement issued by the National Union of Journalists chapel at *The Sunday Times* yesterday accused Thomson British Holdings of reneging on a pledge that all bidders would be properly vetted to ensure they maintained the paper's editorial standards and independence. The consortium headed by Mr Harold Evans was "the only bidder which appears to offer adequate editorial safeguards".

The vetting committee consists of the editor in chief of Times Newspapers, the editors of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and the four national directors of Times Newspapers.

The statement claimed that under a so-far undisclosed Thomson plan the vetting committee would be allowed to pronounce only upon a single candidate: Thomson's own "commercial[illegible] preferred" choice.

Mr Brunt[illegible] would make no [illegible] the journalists' [illegible] til he had read a[illegible] their resolution.

et, W1. 01-49

Two newspapers stopped in closure dispute

By Craig Seton

A dispute over the closure of the *Camden Journal* in north London has stopped publication of two sister papers, the *Hornsey Journal* and the *Islington Gazette*. Both have been blacked by the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat) in support of striking journalists.

The *Camden Journal* was closed before Christmas because its owners claimed its circulation was too low at 6,500 copies a week and that it was losing too much money. Its nine journalists refused to accept redundancy, and have been on strike since.

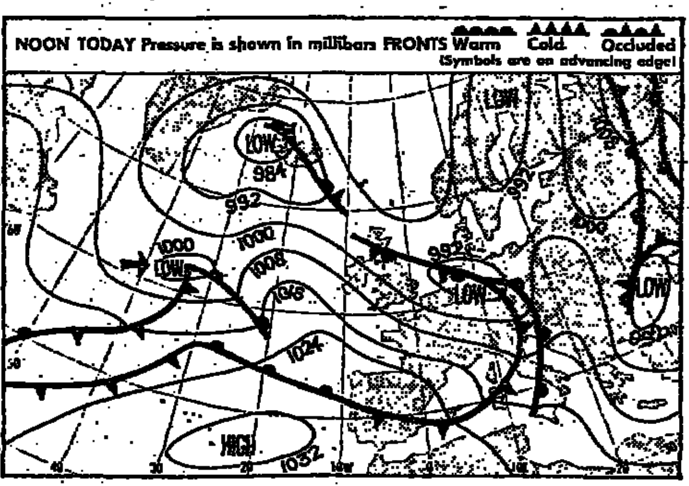
£2,250 award for fall through manhole cover

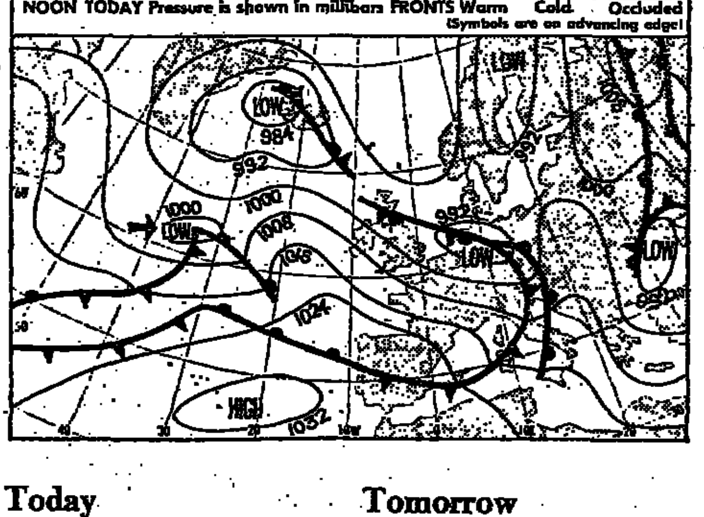
Mrs Edna White, a housewife, was ordered in the High Court yesterday to pay damages to a milkman for injuries suffered when a manhole cover outside her home collapsed.

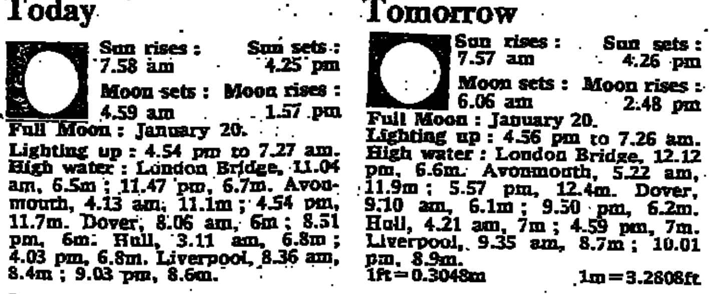
Mr Michael Gordon Holden cut his right leg as the cover, on Mrs White's property in Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey, disintegrated.

Awarding Mr Holden, aged 55, of Alma Road, Bordon, Hampshire, £2,250 damages, Mr Justice Stocker said Mrs White was in breach of the duty of care she owed to Mr Holden

Weather forecast and recordings







Today

Sun rises: 7.58 am Sun sets: 4.25 pm
Moon sets: 4.59 am Moon rises: 1.57 pm
Full Moon: January 20.
Lighting up: 4.54 pm to 7.27 am. High water: London Bridge, 11.04 am, 6.5m; 11.47 pm, 6.7m. Avonmouth, 4.13 am, 11.1m; 4.54 pm, 11.7m. Dover, 8.06 am, 6m; 8.51 pm, 6m. Hull, 3.11 am, 6.8m; 4.03 pm, 6.8m. Liverpool, 8.36 am, 8.4m; 9.03 pm, 8.6m.

Tomorrow

Sun rises: 7.57 am Sun sets: 4.26 pm
Moon sets: 6.06 am Moon rises: 2.48 pm
Full Moon: January 20.
Lighting up: 4.56 pm to 7.26 am. High water: London Bridge, 12.12 pm, 6.6m. Avonmouth, 5.22 am, 11.9m; 5.57 pm, 12.4m. Dover, 9.10 am, 6.1m; 9.30 pm, 6.2m. Hull, 4.21 am, 7m; 4.59 pm, 7m. Liverpool, 9.35 am, 8.7m; 10.01 pm, 8.9m.
1ft = 0.3048m 1m = 3.2808ft

Depression is moving away across Germany, leaving troughs of low pressure over Britain.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, SW, central S England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny intervals, showers, heavy in places; wind NW, fresh to strong, but locally gale at first; max temp 7° to 9°C (45° to 48°F).

East Anglia, Midlands, E, central N England: Sunny intervals, showers, heavy and wintry in places; wind NW, strong, decreasing, fresh later; max temp 5° to 7°C (41° to 45°F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Misty in places at first, then showers, prolonged and wintry in places, bright intervals; wind NW, strong, decreasing, fresh later; max temp 4° to 6°C (39° to 43°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyle: Occasional sleet or snow, mostly cloudy; wind variable, moderate; max temp 1° to 4°C (34° to 39°F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Snow showers, bright intervals; wind E, moderate to fresh; max temp −1° to +1°C (30° to 34°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Unsettled with rain at times, but generally less cold; some sleet or snow in the N on Sunday.

b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind W, veering NW, strong to severe gale; sea very rough.

English Channel (E): Wind W, veering NW later, strong to severe gale; sea very rough.

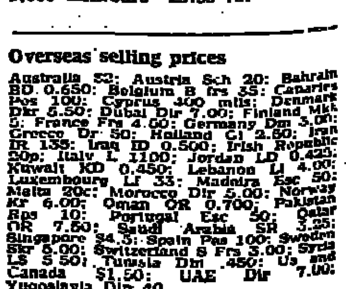
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W to NW, strong to severe gale, moderating later; sea very rough.

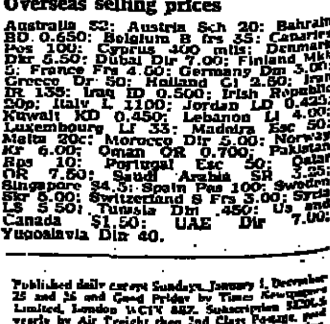
Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1°C (34°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 82 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.13 in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 994.2 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	15	59	Cardiff	r	6	43	Jersey	r	6	43	Naples	f	8	46
Algiers	c	15	59	Cologne	c	0	32	L Palmas	f	17	63	Nice	s	12	54
Amstrdm	f	1	34	Copenhgn	s	2	36	Lisbon	c	13	55	Oslo	f	1	34
Athens	c	16	61	Dublin	r	9	48	Locarno	c	1	34	Paris	c	3	37
Barcelona	c	13	55	Edinbrgh	sn	−2	28	London	sn	1	34	Reykjvk	sn	−5	23
Beirut	f	14	57	Florence	s	7	45	Luxembrg	f	−1	30	Rome	s	9	48
Belfast	r	8	46	Funchal	c	16	61	Madrid	s	14	57	Ronldswy	r	4	39
Berlin	c	0	32	Geneva	c	2	36	Majorca	c	13	55	Stockhlm	sn	−3	27
Biarritz	c	12	54	Gibraltar	f	15	59	Malaga	f	16	61	Tel Aviv	c	15	59
Bir'ham	sn	1	34	Guernsey	r	8	46	Malta	f	13	55	Venice	s	6	43
Bristol	r	3	37	Helsinki	sn	−1	30	Manchstr	sn	−1	31	Vienna	sn	2	36
Brussels	f	1	34	Innsbruck	c	0	32	Moscow	r	2	36	Zurich	f	1	34
Budapest	f	1	34	Istanbul	f	12	54	Munich	sn	−2	28				





Overseas selling prices

Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canaries Pts 100; Cyprus 300 mils; Denmark Dkr 6.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 5; France Frs 4.00; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 2.80; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic 50p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon Ll 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 50; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir 5.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 10; Portugal Esc 50; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pts 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.50; Tunisia Din .450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.

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HOME NEWS

MPs promised debate on secrecy only if concern warrants it

By Peter Hennessey

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, made a significant concession to backbench power yesterday when he promised, on behalf of the Government, to find Commons time for discussions of select committee grievances occasioned by ministers refusing to release information.

Mr Pym qualified his pledge by saying there would need to be "widespread and general concern in the House" for a debate to take place, and declined to specify in detail how that would be gauged.

He also said that ministers would not succumb to a secrecy obsession in deciding what to disclose to select committees, nor would confidentiality be used to conceal official incompetence.

Mr Pym's remarks were delivered during discussion of a private member's motion proposed by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, and the chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, which sought to establish an automatic right to a debate on the floor of the House where a minister had flouted the Commons' ancient right to send for "persons, papers and records".

Mr Price withdrew his motion in view of Mr Pym's promise and the failure of sufficient backbench MPs to turn up to reach the 100 needed to force a vote. He said after the debate that the concession would be valuable in enabling select committee chairman "to threaten to activate the Pym pledge" on big issues.

"However, a lot of denial of information centres on issues too narrow or specialized to be caught by the definition of 'widespread and general concern'", he added.

The debate also touched on Whitehall's Croham Directive in Open Government, to which the Prime Minister reaffirmed the Cabinet's adherence yesterday in a parliamentary answer. Mr Pym acknowledged publicly for the first time that the Government had abandoned the obligation to keep and publish lists of documents released under it, a decision which drew criticism from Mr Price as it made it impossible to monitor the directive's effectiveness.

Restrictions on information civil servants can disclose before select committees, contained in a 60-paragraph memorandum of guidance prepared by the Civil Service Department, were criticized by Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, and chairman of both the Treasury and Civil Service Committee and the liaison committee of all select committee chairmen.

"It is a poor document. It is a miserable document. Its whole flavour is wrong", he said. Mr Pym should examine it carefully.

Mr Du Cann wanted the liaison committee to be given a stronger role. He did not support Mr Price's motion as more time was needed to judge the relationship between the Government and the new select committees it established 18 months ago.

But, he added, if he thought at any time that ministers were deliberately holding information from them, he would come before the house "and not ask for, but demand change".

Mr Pym defended the Government's record in creating the new committees and in setting new standards for frankness with the Commons. Limitations on what civil servants could disclose were conditioned only by the need for good Government and the preservation of national security.

Parliamentary report, page 27

Weedkiller defended by minister

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

The Government yesterday rejected criticism from trade unions of official safeguards on the use of weedkiller sprays.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that he had full confidence in the Government's Advisory Committee on Pesticides. He told members of the TUC industrial welfare committee: "Their safety record has been one of unquestioned success".

The committee has cleared for home and industrial use sprays containing the chemical 245-T, even though the unions claim it is too dangerous to use.

Mr Walker agreed to discuss with other ministers two demands from the TUC for reform of the committee. They were for union representatives to be appointed to it, and for it to be responsible to the Health and Safety Executive, instead of to Mr Walker's ministry.

He told the TUC delegation that their public attacks on the committee had been excessive and intemperate.

April dates for Algardi case trial

By Francis Gibb

The Director of Public Prosecution's case against Thomas Agnew and Sons, the fine art dealers, for allegedly breaking the law over the purchase of a seventeenth-century marble bust by Algardi, is expected to be heard by summary trial.

The art dealers, who were summoned at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday, are accused of a breach of the Auction (Bidding Agreements) Act, 1927, under which, at summary trial, the maximum fine is £400.

Mr Robert Rhodes, for the prosecution, said it would be a test case. It will be heard on April 2 and 9.

It is alleged that Agnew's induced another company of dealers, E. V. Thaw and Co Inc, of New York, who are outside the DPP's jurisdiction, to enter an agreement to bid jointly for the bust at auction last June.

According to the summons the two companies then agreed to share profits from the resale of the sculpture. The work was bought for £165,000 and was intended to be sold to the Metropolitan Museum, New York, for £265,000.



Photograph by Brian Harris

"Bjorn Borg, five times Wimbledon champion", by Stuart Osborne, which was installed yesterday at Queensmere shopping centre, Slough.

Dual role for vice-chancellor

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

London University has set up a committee to make recommendations on the appointment of a vice-chancellor for Britain's largest university, to serve from September 1, 1981, after the completion of three years in office by Lord Annan, the present vice-chancellor.

Under the university's new statutes, which were approved last month by the Queen in council, the vice-chancellor will for the first time be both the administrative and the academic head of the university, and will be appointed for between two and four years in the first instance with the possibility of reappointment for a further four years.

Until now the vice-chancellor has been appointed for only one year at a time and has acted only as the academic head of the university. All members of the university are being invited to suggest names by January 30, for consideration by the appointments committee.

There is a feeling among many university members that Lord Annan might be persuaded to stay on despite his nearness to the university's official retiring age of 65. He was 64 last month.

Lord Annan has presided over or initiated a number of significant but as yet unfinished events in the university's life, not least the Flowers report on medical education in London, whose recommendations are still under discussion; the Swinnerton-Dyer committee of inquiry into non-medical provision in the university, which is due to report at the end of this year; and the Government's decision to withdraw its financial support for overseas students, which in London's case will mean that £30m of the university's annual income will be at risk by 1982.

He declined to talk about his plans yesterday, saying that he would be more willing to do so after the new vice-chancellor had been appointed.

However, pressed as to whether he would allow his name to be put forward, he replied: "If the university could not find someone suitable in the short time available, I would be willing to carry on for another year".

He said he was pleased by the change in the statutes regarding the vice-chancellor's term in office. The university would now be able to choose a leader for the next four and possibly eight years, "and by God, we have got some difficult decisions to make".

Lord Flowers, FRS, aged 56, Rector of Imperial College, London, and chairman of the committee of inquiry into the university's medical schools, is considered a front runner for the vice-chancellorship, if Lord Annan declines to allow his name to be put forward.

Fourth TV channel may run when the others are off

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Jeremy Isaacs, chief executive of the fourth television channel, gave a strong indication yesterday that some programmes on Channel Four may be shown outside presently recognized viewing hours.

They would be screened, he said, "to entertain when some people have gone to sleep and others want to stay awake. Perhaps a way of being distinctive would be to be broadcasting when the others were not."

Mr Isaacs, addressing 600 independent programme makers, potential contributors to the channel when it opens late next year, made it clear that a high standard of product will be required.

He welcomed the links established with the Independent Programme Producers' Association, but was opposed to using half a dozen solidly based companies to fill broadcasting time. "That way would lie instant ossification."

Mr Isaacs said that for important drama and documentary programmes and the big "one-off" film, which could be made this summer and autumn, suggestions should be made between April 1 and June 30. "We will try to give answers by mid-August".

For programmes relevant to the day, suggestions were wanted between August 1 and late October. Decisions would probably be made in November.

He hoped the programmes might reach some viewers "not at present over-impressed by what we do to cater for their tastes."

They would "speak to young people in a tone of voice they want to hear and music they want to hear, not necessarily filtered through a commercial chart".

The programmes would show women as they are and as they would be, rather than as they are assumed or forced to be; would show a multiracial society in which all communities claim equal rights, equal treatment and equal heritage; and show how Britain can earn its living.

The great questions of the day, like Europe, and defence, would be debated, with opinions from across the political spectrum clearly expressed and forcibly questioned.

Low-income farmers appeal for aid

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

British farmers appealed yesterday for large government subsidies to protect them from falling incomes. The National Farmers' Union would not say how much it wanted, but based its claim on the government award to French farmers worth £400m.

The appeal was made after the Farmers' Union of Wales had said that some of its members' incomes were so low that they qualified for Family Incomes Supplement.

Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, told his members at Shrewsbury, Shropshire: "Farm incomes fell away severely in this country in 1980".

The union wants aid for farmers who produce milk, beef, pork, bacon and eggs. Its claim is likely to be rejected by Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He would rather secure the abolition of subsidies abroad than match them in Britain.

Six years' jail for leader of drug smuggling gang

A £330,000 cannabis smuggling operation was doomed to failure from the start, Judge Goodall was told at Plymouth Crown Court yesterday. Customs men were monitoring the gang's movement from the moment they left England for Morocco to pick up their cargo.

The drugs ring was rounded up when members drove the illicit 250-kg cargo back to London after landing it by yacht, it was stated. Mr Harry Hebron, for the prosecution said that the cannabis was ferried to the yachting centre of Salcombe, Devon.

Officals had expected the landing to be on the Scottish west coast because navigation charts of that area were seen in one of the gang's luggage by a customs man at Heathrow airport, London, at the start of the operation.

Four men and one woman admitted a joint charge of smuggling the cannabis between July 1 and September 6, last year. Peter Welser, aged 30, an American photographer, who was said by the Judge to be the ringleader, was jailed for six years. He gave an address in Finchley Road, London.

Humphrey Holland, aged 38, a commercial artist, who lived at Mijas, Spain; and Raymond Humphries, aged 33, a former naval officer and yacht master, of East Allington, south Devon, were both jailed for four years.

Alan Bolton, aged 38, a boat builder, of Golborne Road, North Kensington, London, was jailed for three years. Margaret Corder, aged 32, with whom he lived, was given an 18 month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Conspiracy to incite racial hatred denied

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

Two members of the British Movement, the right-wing organization, denied yesterday that they plotted to incite racial hatred by the use of stickers attacking Jews, communists and the coloured communities.

Roderick Roberts, aged 27, of Central Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham and Harvey Stock, aged 39, of Woodbrooke Road, Bourneville, Birmingham, both deny that they conspired to distribute threatening, abusive or insulting written material likely to stir up racial hatred.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution at Birmingham Crown Court, told the jury: "These two are members of a group of fascists in the British Movement based in the West Midlands. They are very high up in that group."

The two men were arrested in October, 1979, after they had pushed a smoke device through the door of a Jobcentre office in Birmingham, having failed to find their original target, the office of a race relations organization.

Asked by detectives why they did it, Mr Roberts said: "It was to upset the establishment and make people take notice of the immigration situation".

The men's homes were searched and thousands of offensive stickers were found attacking Jews, West Indians, Asians, communists and their associates, Mr Barker said.

Both Mr Roberts and Mr Stock told the jury they intended to distribute only those stickers which did not breach the Race Relations Act.

The trial continues on Monday.

Life and leisure: 'In times of turmoil, one always looks back'

Big growth of interest in tracing family roots

By Cyril Bainbridge

Thirty or forty amateur detectives descend every day on a splendid Victorian house in South Kensington, London, looking for clues. The evidence that is constantly being turned over consists of old parish and other registers, some original but much on microfilm.

The sleuths are piecing together the history of their families. It is a form of detection work that gives great satisfaction to increasing numbers of people every year.

Television is partly responsible for the growth of interest in family trees. The serialization of Alex Haley's book Roots had a great impact on genealogy in America where, according to Mr Anthony Camp, director of the Society of Genealogists, tracing the family history is the second most popular hobby.

It has not yet reached such proportions in Britain, although Roots created much interest in the subject here, as did a television series in which Mr Gordon Honeycombe, the former newsreader, traced his ancestry.

The society's red-brick headquarters in Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, is where potential and professional genealogists make for. Such has been the increase in interest over the past decade that many of the old records have been placed in some danger through constant handling by searchers and, in order to conserve the originals, there has been much recourse to microfilm. Some of the registers deteriorate so rapidly that rebinding is necessary every two years.

An indication of the growth of interest is that in 1957 the society had about 1,300 members: it has increased to more than 6,000 with an average of 100 new members being elected every month.

But that is only part of it: add the membership of other groups like family history societies, which exist in every county and have a federation, and other associated groups, and it is estimated that there are at least 25,000 people investigating their antecedents at any given time.

Mr Camp attributes the increased interest in genealogy to nostalgia. "People have more time and more money to put into it", he says. "People have always been concerned about their ancestry. It used to be a preserve of the upper middle classes; now it is the working class as well. Society has lost its sense of direction and is looking back: in times of turmoil one always looks back."

There are two crucial dates for compilers of family trees. The centralized general registry was started in 1837 and was a genealogists' watershed. In theory births and marriages since that time should be traceable but the indices are often incomplete.

Compilers may encounter difficulties—expensive ones, too, when each copy of a certificate costs £3.50—if they have a name like Smith, Jones or Robinson; it should be easier if you have a more uncommon name.

The other important date is 1538 when parish registers were started.

Genealogists have cause to be grateful to the Mormon Church which has produced on microfilm, of which the society has a copy, an index to 32 million entries of baptism from parish registers in Britain between 1538 and 1875.

"When this index became available in 1977 it revolutionized things", Mr Camp said. "It produced entries for which people had been searching for generations."

Genealogists need to be methodical and meticulously record their references. It is an interest that can easily become obsessive, Mr Camp said.

"It is a marvellous pastime for elderly people. It gives them a new lease of life and often provides an opportunity to renew acquaintance with long lost or previously unknown relations."

Killer escapes trial on £½m robbery charge

Henry (Big H) MacKenney, aged 48, and Gwen Andrews his former lover, appeared in dock at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. He was accused of a £501,000 robbery in 1979 and she of providing him with a false alibi.

When Mr MacKenney, who is serving a minimum of 25 years for four murders, was asked to plead he replied: "I have not robbed anybody or killed anybody".

Ordering the robbery charge to be left on the file, Judge Miskin, QC, the Recorder, said it would be a total waste of public money to try Mr MacKenney on the robbery charge.

Mrs Andrews, of Cranbrook Road, Gants Hill, Ilford, London, denied providing a false alibi for Mr MacKenney and was remanded on bail to appear for trial at Hertfordshire Crown Court.

Also in the dock was Leonard Willsher, aged 46, of Chargeable Lane, Plaistow, London, who denied taking part in the Hertfordshire robbery. He was also remanded for trial.

WEST EUROPE

Signor Forlani wins confidence vote after strong criticism

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 16

Signor Arnaldo Forlani patched over the cracks in his three-month-old coalition by winning a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies at the end of a three-day debate today on terrorism and the Government's handling of the kidnapping of Judge Giovanni D'Urso. The voting was 353 for, 243 against, with seven abstentions.

At one time the Republicans threatened to submit a motion opposed to the line of their coalition partners, the Socialists. They wanted Parliament to endorse the attitude of those newspapers which refused to submit to demands to publish the texts of Red Brigade proclamations. The Socialist Party newspaper Avanti! on the other hand was the first important newspaper to favour publication, in the belief that this would help secure the judge's release.

In the end the Republicans dropped their proposal and all four coalition parties—including also the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats—rallied round a motion expressing confidence in Signor Forlani. It was generally realized that only the Red Brigades would benefit from a Government split at this moment. Signor Forlani's handling of the case, however, came in for strong criticism from the opposition, particularly the Communists on the left and the Italian Social Movement on the extreme right.

Dr D'Urso, meanwhile, rested from his 34-day ordeal, which ended with his release yesterday morning near the Justice Ministry where he works. He is staying with his brother-in-law, an Army officer who has quarters in a military encampment on the outskirts of Rome. He is to give a press conference tomorrow.

Summing up the debate, Signor Forlani conceded that there were problems inside his Government. It was not always easy to achieve a high degree of cohesion but this, he argued, was often so, and was due to the Italian party system and the country's political history and traditions.

He said that if terrorism was to be eradicated, not only was greater efficiency by the state needed, but politicians must change their behaviour. If they allowed factious polemics and unprincipled manoeuvrings to continue, they could not wonder that "terrorism finds more space in Italy than in other countries, inflicts more serious wounds on society, and requires more time and suffering to extirpate".

The search went on for six people, three of them women, wanted for allegedly participating in the D'Urso kidnapping and in the killing on New Year's Eve of General Enrico Galvaligi, coordinator of prison security. A seventh, Giulio Cacciotti, a 24-year-old economics student, was arrested, apparently on Saturday, but police kept the news secret in order not to prejudice the chances of the judge's release.

Of the six, who the authorities maintain form part of the Red Brigades Rome column which was reformed last year, the best known is Signor Giovanni Senzani, already wanted for providing the weekly magazine L'Espresso with a long interview with the Red Brigades.

President alerts French to peril of English invasion

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 16

President Giscard d'Estaing called a special meeting of the High Committee of the French Language at the Elysée Palace yesterday in an attempt to repair French defences against the English invasion, which he made clear was becoming in his words "a peril". It was the first time for five years that the committee had met.

"Do not believe that the will can suffice if it is not matched by lucidity," he exhorted the committee. "The facts are deeply entrenched, they will not be moved by exhortations, however eloquent they are."

What were these facts? "The progress of English compromises the other great international languages," he explained. "Since the nineteenth century the industrial and maritime supremacy of Great Britain and the extent of its Empire have made English the language of commerce

"Since 1945 the rise of the United States has favoured its diffusion in the domaines of diplomatic relations, in that of high technology and in that of mass culture. This expansion cannot but have an effect on French, amplified by the growth of the methods of audiovisual communication."

"French was, only a century ago, the language of Europe. It no longer is. French is still the language of a part of the world. But its frontiers are shrinking. French is threatened."

The committee, made up of 17 civil servants and intellectuals, had done its preliminary work for the first time under M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, and agreed on 14 measures to protect French from foreign attack. These include improving education, monitoring the quality of language used by the civil service and improving radio and television speech.

Reduced state ownership promised in Portugal

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 16

The new Government of Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemao has pledged a bigger role for free enterprise to prepare for Portugal's entry into the European Community in its programme presented today to Parliament.

In a speech which showed his keen awareness of the world economic situation, particularly oil price rises, the Prime Minister told farmers and businessmen that only higher productivity could lay the basis for better standards of living.

Along with a freer market economy there would be government reforms to reduce state ownership, and a fresh attempt to modernize Portugal's 400,000 strong central bureaucracy, he said. It must cease to be a part of party patronage, become fully professional, and immune from outside pressure if it was to carry out the tasks required by EEC entry.

Senhor Pinto Balsemao took over the leadership of the Democratic Alliance Government after the sudden death last month of Dr Sá Carnerro

The new Government reaffirmed its allegiance to Nato which it described in the current tense international situation as vital for Portugal's defence. There would also be efforts to modernize military equipment fithin the framework of Nato.

Faced with a petrol bill which this year, he said, would amount to \$3,000m (£1,250m) accounting for almost 30 per cent of Portugal's entire imports, the Prime Minister emphasized the higher priority he plans to give in relations with the Arab countries compared to the previous administration.

Flooding closes factories in northern Spain

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 16

A sudden thaw after fierce winter storms brought floods to northern Spain today, closing factories and threatening farms, while in mountainous areas rescuers were still ploughing through snowdrifts to reach marooned persons and snowbound villages.

Better conditions made it possible for the first time since last weekend for climbers, with the help of helicopters, to try to reach two climbers hanging in their sleeping bags from the sheer rock face of a peak near the northern city of Santander. There was little hope of finding them alive.

Flooding stopped half of the factories in the Basque city of Vitoria.

Treaty to revive Community backed

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 16

An appeal for "new life" to be injected into European union was made today by Mr Gaston Thorn, the new President of the European Commission.

In an interview with European news agencies, Mr Thorn declared his support for a recent suggestion by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, for a new treaty on European union to underpin the internal cohesion of the EEC as it prepares to tackle the reform of its finances and to embark on a further phase of enlargement.

Earlier this month, in Stuttgart, Herr Genscher, who leads the Free Democratic wing of the West German coalition government, said that such a treaty might cover the coordination of foreign and defence policy, the harmonization of legislation, greater cooperation in cultural affairs and the extension of Community policies into new areas.

Mr Thorn, a former Prime Minister of Luxembourg and, like Herr Genscher, a Liberal tradition, agreed that a treaty of this kind could reinvigorate the EEC and do so without adding to the Community's bugetary costs.

"Political cooperation"—EEC shorthand for the coordination of foreign policy by member states—could be made more effective by the creation of a permanent secretariat, preferably in Brussels, to handle it, Mr Thorn said.

He gave a warning, however, against trying to go too far, too fast, in giving institutional form to political cooperation

The views of both Mr Thorn and Herr Genscher are being studied with close and sympathetic interest in London where it is felt that to some extent they complement recent speeches by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary.

There is no great enthusiasm in Britain for the phrase "European Union", which is felt to smack too much of 1950s federalist theology about a United States of Europe but differences of language apart, Herr Genscher and Lord Carrington seem to think along similar lines.

In a speech in Hamburg last November Lord Carrington said that, with the increasing need for EEC member states to work out common responses to world events, the Community could not rely for ever on "ad hoc methods and improvized organization".

He suggested the setting-up of a permanent foreign policy staff in Brussels, seconded temporarily from member states, and proposed a method for calling meetings of foreign ministers within 48 hours if any three member states considered there was a crisis requiring rapid consultations.

EEC not taking France to court on budget

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 16

There was no question of dragging France before the European Court of Justice for refusing to pay its share of the supplementary budget approved by the European Parliament, Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the EEC Commission said on French television last night.

The problem was sufficiently serious for him not to want to pour oil on the fire, he said, and he would be seeking to de-dramatize the situation. "We cannot lose three months each year in budgetary quarrels. We must arrange the system, it must be accommodated and above all we must see that the conciliation procedure between the Parliament and the Council of Ministers is improved".

France remains firm in its view that the supplementary budget was illegally passed.

Greeks upset by treatment at British entry ports

By a Staff Reporter

Britain was yesterday searching for a formula to assuage the wounded pride of Greeks who have complained about second-class treatment at Heathrow airport and other immigration points, despite their entry to the EEC.

Although Greece took up membership on January 1, a seven-year transitional period means Greeks are not yet entitled to freedom of movement in West Europe, particularly in search of a job. Greeks arriving at Heathrow are thus not allowed to go through the channel reserved for British and EEC citizens.

Their treatment has resulted in protests to the Foreign Office from the Greek embassy and also from Mr Nicholas Bethell, MEP for London North-West, who is spokesman on relations with Greece for the European Democratic group.

Mr Bethell said yesterday that most other EEC countries did not operate the same system of separation

The reason for the separation is apparently that it is necessary to question Greeks but this would embarrass them and delay others. Some Greeks are also unaware of the transitional period and believe there is no bar to their immediately seeking jobs in Britain.

The Home Office said that alternative arrangements were being considered but in the meantime immigration officials would ensure that Greeks would be delayed as little as possible.

Ransom demand for Spanish industrialist

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 16

A man with a Basque accent demanded 200 million pesetas (more than £1m) ransom for the release of a kidnapped Spanish industrialist and said that the political-military wing of the separatist organization ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) was responsible for the abduction. The ransom demand was made in a telephone call to Civil Guard headquarters in Valencia.

The caller said the prisoner, Señor Luis Suñer Sanchís, aged 70, was in good health. Police did not say whether they were able to trace the call. Direct-dialling raises the possibility that the call might not have come from outside the Valencia area.

Señor Suñer Sanchís, who reportedly paid more personal tax last year than any other Spaniard, was taken at gunpoint from his office at one of his food-processing plants in Alcira, near Valencia, on Tuesday night by a gang of hooded men. Political motives for the crime were largely discounted at first, since the businessman had not been involved in politics. His companies, in the packaging and food-processing lines, were free of any serious labour disputes.

Today's call confirmed one made last night, when a man told a reporter at the offices of the San Sebastian newspaper Diario Vasco that ETA-PM was holding the man, and added that contact would be made with his family within two days.

About 2,000 policemen, including special anti-terrorist units, are taking part in the search through the Valencia area for the missing man. Police think the kidnappers may not have been able to get far because roadblocks were quickly set up.

OVERSEAS

American success with lasers claimed

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The United States Air Force has announced the successful test of a laser beam which can destroy intercontinental ballistic missiles in flight.

Mr Hans Mark, the United States Air Force Secretary said yesterday that he was "satisfied that we have passed a significant milestone". The test had shown that a laser could be "fired" from an aircraft "at the full power level that we have in mind".

The test was apparently carried out from the ground on Thursday. But Agence France-Presse reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico, that the USAF is now planning another series which would involve using a laser from a KC135 aircraft, a military variant of the Boeing 707.

Mr Mark said that the principal objective was to station lasers in space from where they would be ready to destroy enemy missiles. The air force was also working on the use of lasers against air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles.

Mr Mark said the laser would play an important part in America's arsenal during the next decade. Laser beams are already used by the military for range-finding and for guiding the so-called "smart" bombs which were used in Vietnam.

American research into their potential as weapons has been spurred on by reports of similar activity in the Soviet Union. Remnants of target aircraft destroyed by lasers were put on display, together with a model of the converted KC135, on the USAF stand at last year's Farnborough Air Show.

British defence scientists have so far been sceptical of some of the claims made for the future of laser weapons. But most of them privately admit that Britain would probably conduct similar research if the funds were available.

Louisiana judge forced to yield in Buckeye case

From Michael Leapman
New York, Jan 16

A Louisiana state judge accepted the authority of a federal judge yesterday and ended the jurisdictional conflict which had arisen about whether three white girls could continue attending an all-white school.

Mr Robert Lee, the state judge, said he would no longer try to thwart the desegregation ruling of the federal judge, Mr Nauman Scott, that the girls should attend a mixed-race school.

For the last two weeks Mr Lee, in defiance of Mr Scott's order, had accompanied the girls to the all-white Buckeye High School and forced Mr Charles Waite, the headmaster, to enrol them. The federal Government charged Mr Lee and the girls' parents and guardians for contempt of court, but Mr Scott did not impose any penalties at yesterday's hearing.

To skirt Mr Scott's original ruling, the parents of the girls had ceded custody of them to friends who lived in the attendance area for Buckeye. Mr Lee said that this was a legitimate transfer and that family matters such as this came under his sole jurisdiction. Mr Scott said that as the move had been made simply to thwart his order, it was invalid.

Under the agreement announced yesterday, the girls will be allowed to attend Buckeye High School until the half-term break next week. They did not show up today, though, because one of them said she had received a telephoned death threat.

After next week, they will be assigned to a mixed-race school at Alexandria, more than 15 miles from their homes.

Solidarity seeking to develop relations with Western unions

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 16

Mr Lech Walesa, here at the head of a delegation from Solidarity, today said the Polish independent trade unions would develop relations with the Italian and other Western trade union movements "independently whether this pleases other people or not". He spoke and answered questions at a meeting of Italian union officials and shop stewards who crammed a big Rome cinema.

After a moving audience with the Pope yesterday, the delegation are continuing their seven-day visit, by public and private meetings with the three Italian confederations, CGIL, CISL and UIL, who jointly invited them on their first visit outside Poland.

According to so far unconfirmed reports from the Vatican, the Pope has asked the delegation to lunch privately on Sunday, before they fly back home on Monday.

In spite of the differences between the situations in Italy and Poland, Mr Walesa stressed the common interests of the two countries' unions, saying: "All workers, like the Polish ones, have always had to struggle, either against a master, or against a state which is master."

Introducing him, Signor Luciano Lama, the Communist secretary-general of the CGIL confederation, said the Gdansk agreements had opened a new phase of the greatest interest "for all those who deeply believe that democratic methods, liberty and pluralism are essential elements of socialism".

Warning strikes: Warsaw's public transport came to a complete halt today with a four-hour strike intended as a warning to the authorities in the controversy over the 40-hour week (Dessa Trevisan writes from Warsaw).

The Government has offered two alternative proposals to provide a reasonable basis for negotiations, since it is clear that under its present economic hardships and declining production Poland cannot afford a 40-hour week.

But the unions flatly refused them. Since then, however, there is more likelihood of negotiations although a compromise is the most the unions can achieve.

The increase in warning and protest stoppages is intended to force through a whole range of demands. In Mielec the largest aircraft manufacturing plant, which also supplies Poland's armed forces as well as that of the Warsaw Pact, work stopped for two hours today in support of the farmers' demands for recognition of their rural union.

The farmers who have been occupying a public building in Rzeszow since the beginning of this year are determined to stay there until the Government sends a delegation to meet their demands.

In Olsztyn, north of Warsaw, the union militants pressing for the ousting of the first party secretary of the region obtained partial satisfaction when, Mr Woinowski resigned from his post. Nevertheless they went ahead and staged a one-hour strike to show that unless he was deprived of his parliamentary immunity, to allow charges of corruption to be investigated, they will keep up the pressure.

In Nowy Sacz, in the south, the agitation continues and a warning strike lasting an hour took place.

As the Government's position hardens there seems little likelihood of yielding to union pressure. It did not, however, say clearly that penalties for last Saturday's absences will not be implemented and this is where misunderstandings could easily occur.

The Government is obviously set on demonstrating that negotiations with Solidarity cannot be conducted under pressure although at the same time Mr Kania, the First Party Secretary, said that they were ready to negotiate the controversial five-day week and ready to cooperate with Solidarity. But he also said that "counter-revolutionary elements had infiltrated its ranks" and warned that the party would not tolerate a rival political power.

At the same time there is a growing feeling that even some of the local Solidarity leaders are not clear as to what precisely they are protesting about. The divisions within Solidarity are becoming increasing apparent and so is also the trend to strike in favour of protest action before leaving the Government a chance to negotiate.

Israeli minister indicted on bribery charges

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 16

Mr Aharon Abuhazeira, Minister for Religious Affairs, was indicted in Jerusalem today on bribery charges which could land him behind bars for seven years.

The charge sheet, the first ever submitted against an Israeli official of Cabinet rank, was filed in the district court by Mr Gabriel Bach, the state attorney, after Parliament had on Wednesday lifted the minister's immunity.

The indictment says that in 1978 and 1979 Mr Abuhazeira and Mr Yisrael Gottleib, then acting mayor of Bnai Brak, agreed that the minister should approve increased financial aid for three institutions in Bnai Brak and that funds would be returned to the minister through Mr Moshe Gabbai, an adviser in his ministry.

The three institutions were said to have "kicked back" at least 52,500 shekels (about £3,000 today but considerably more in 1979 before currency devaluations).

Mr Gabbai was also indicted today but Mr Gottleib was listed as one of 27 prosecution witnesses.



Victim of the shooting, M Olivier Rebbot, a French photographer working in El Salvador for "Newsweek" lies seriously wounded in a street of San Francisco Gotera while Mr Harry Mattison, a photographer from "Time" tries to help him.

US envoy defends military aid to El Salvador

San Salvador, Jan 16.—Government forces claimed today to have repulsed the leftist guerrilla offensive launched last Saturday and to have all of El Salvador under control but residents said the rebels had cut off two main highways leading to the capital.

Red Cross officials estimated that at least 600 people have died in the fighting since the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, an umbrella group of five guerrilla organizations, launched the offensive. The military put their number at between 4,000 and 6,000.

Residents in Suchitito, 31 miles north of San Salvador, and in San Francisco Gotera, a provincial capital 105 miles north-east, said highways to the capital were cut off by deep trenches dug by the insurgents.

The Government sent aircraft against rebel bases on the slopes of a volcano near San Salvador in a stepped-up counteroffensive.

Government troops yesterday seized San Francisco Gotera from rebels who held the city for three days and bottled up an 800-man elite paratroop unit in the city's garrison, a defence Ministry spokesman said. Later, however, guerrillas again struck the city in hit-and-run attacks typical of the leftist campaign, officials said.

Mr Robert White, the American Ambassador, said United States military aid to the ruling junta had been resumed because the guerrillas were receiving large shipments of arms from abroad.

"It is clear that the amount of assistance the Government has received is substantially less than the guerrillas have received", Mr White said yesterday. The guerrillas had received "large shipments of sophisticated weapons from abroad", including Soviet hand-grenades "still in their packing crates".

In Washington, Pentagon sources said seven military advisers were sent to El Salvador last week to help train troops and improve their logistics, transportation and communication. The advisers included a two-man helicopter survey unit.

Mr White said the military aid was non-lethal and the seven American technicians here would offer only basic advice. The two helicopters, included in the deal, would not be flown by United States pilots.

No anti-American reprisals have yet been reported after the resumption of military aid, which was suspended last month after the killings of four American church women. —UPI, Reuter.

Chad poll promised for next year

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 16

Mr Abdessalam Triki, the Libyan Foreign Minister, said today in an interview on French radio that elections would be held in Chad in February of next year. It would be up to the existing temporary Government, he said, to decide whether or not it wanted to hold them before that date.

Free elections in Chad by 1982 were agreed under the terms of the Lagos Treaty in 1979. France's strong objection to the announced merger last week between Libya and Chad was on the basis that these elections had not taken place.

It is increasingly clear, however, that the merger announcement has done no more than formalize an arrangement which already existed.

The well-informed magazine Jeune Afrique revealed last November that France had secretly agreed with Libya in 1978 to share out the spheres of influence in Chad, Libya taking the Muslim north, France the Christian south.

Kosher squeeze goes on hotels in the Holy City

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 16

A three-year dispute between Jerusalem's Chief Rabbi and leading Jewish hoteliers over what, exactly, is kosher is due to come to a head next week. The result could affect the facilities available to tens of thousands of non-Jewish tourists who visit the Holy City.

Among the issues are orders that no Arabs should be permitted to serve wine in a Jewish-owned hotel, the prohibition of all imported wines, a ban on all hotel-based Christmas and New Year festivities and an injunction against Jewish hotel employees working during the sabbath, which lasts for 24 hours from sunset every Friday.

These are just some of the rules being laid down by Mr Bezalel Zolti, the Chief Rabbi, as a condition for granting offical certificates saying that an hotel has been passed as kosher. Such certificates are vital for any Jerusalem hotel hoping to stage funtions for observant Jews such as business conventions, weddings and Bar Mitzvahs.

At present, only seven of the 29 main Jewish-owned hotels in Jerusalem have succeeded in obtaining the certificate, the conditions of which are then supervised, in larger hotels, by rabbis based permanently on the premises.

Before the task of vetting passed into the hands of Rabbi Zolti in 1978, it is claimed that more than 20 of the city's hotels had been granted the certificate.

"The Chief Rabbi insisted that the term kosher did not only apply to dietary rules but extended to what he described as providing a good Jewish atmosphere", Mr Avi Cassuto, chairman of the Jerusalem Hotel Association.

On Monday, Mr Cassuto, who is manager of the Ram Hotel (which has failed to win religious approval), will propose that the association rejects the certificates and their "impossibly restrictive conditions".

"The Rabbis may know a lot about the Bible, but they know nothing about tourism. They do not seem to realize that these crazy rules are going to lose Israel valuable foreign currency", Mr Cassuto said. He is to discuss the problem next week with senior officials at the Ministry of Tourism.

The dispute was forced into the open in December by last minute telegrams from the Jerusalem Rabbinate ordering all hotels seeking the kosher certificate to ban their Christmas and New Year festivities—a prohibition which led to a flood of complaints from disappointed tourists.

"How can you explain to a Christian that the Rabbis regard not only Christmas but

In reply the Rabbinate said: "In a Jewish state, we believe that visitors will appreciate the Jewish atmosphere of the hotels that they stay in."

also New Year's Eve as heathen festivals which are forbidden in the Holy Land?", asked the angry spokesman of one of Jerusalem's four-star hotels.

Mr Carter's farewell to Congress

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 16

President Carter said today that he was leaving his successor, President-elect Ronald Reagan, a nation which was basically sound after his four-year term of office.

"Our economy is recovering from a recession. A national energy plan is in place and our dependence on foreign oil is decreasing. We have been at peace for four uninterrupted years", he said in his final State of the Union message to Congress.

The 76-page document which lists all Mr Carter's purported achievements, was delivered to members of Congress today. A populist to the end, the outgoing President decided to broadcast a short farewell message to the nation on television earlier this week rather than appear on Capitol Hill in person.

In tonight's message, Mr Carter conceded that the nation still had some serious problems. Inflation and unemployment were unacceptably high, world oil supplies were increasingly tight, and there were trouble spotsaround the world. In particular, more than 50 American hostages were still being held in Iran, "against international law and against every precept of human affairs".

Nevertheless, Mr Carter said he firmly believed that, as a result of the progress made during his time at the White House the nation was "stronger, wealthier, more compassinoate and freer" than it was four years ago. "I am proud of the fact", he added.

Listing his achievements, he said that the United States had "new support in the world for our purposes of national independence and individual human dignity; we have a new will at home to do what is required to keep us the strongest nation on earth".

Mr Carter also reaffirmed his belief that the new strategic arms limitation agreement, Salt 2, with the Soviet Union was in America's security interest and would add significently to the control of nuclear weapons. Mr Reagan has said that he thinks that Salt 2 would be renegotiated before it is resubmitted to the Senate for ratification.

Missing diplomat nominated for prize

Stockholm, Jan 16.—Mr Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat said by the Soviet Union to have died in one of its prisons in 1947, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize today as part of a campaign to determine the wartime hero's fate.

National Raoul Wallenberg committees will also try to have the case taken up by the human rights commissions of the United Nations and the Council of Europe and will seek to visit the Soviet Union to study evidence there.

The moves were announced after a two-day hearing here organized by the Swedish Wallenberg Association and the International Sakharov Committee. It discussed evidence that Mr Wallenberg, credited with saving more than 30,000 Jews from the Nazis in Budapest before being arrested by Soviet Troops in 1945, was still alive inside a Soviet prison.

"Each individual statement examined under a legal spotlight is found wanting", Mr Greville Janner, MP for Leicester West and chairman of the British Wallenberg Committee, said after the meeting.

The hearing was organized by the Wallenberg national committees and produced statements, mainly from anonymous sources, that Mr Wallenberg lived on after 1947

Yesterday, Mr Simon Wiesenthal, the so-called "Nazi hunter", said Mr Wallenberg was still alive.

Although the Soviet authorities claim that Mr Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947 Mr Wiesenthal, who has been investigating the case since 1971, said the Russians "have never given convincing proof of his death".—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Soviet anger: The Russians have denounced the hearings in Stockholm as a provocative anti-Soviet hullaballoo (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow). They described those people attending the meeting such as Mr Winston Churchill, MP for Stretford and Mr Janner as "rabid anti-communists".

Delhi gives hint of progress towards Afghan talks

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Jan 16

After a week of speculation on possible talks on the future of Afghanistan, "certain developments are in the offing", Mr Narasimho Rao, India's Foreign Minister, said here today.

Further progress, he said, depends on what Dr Kurt Waldheim, United Nations Secretary-General, decided to do "and we will have to wait for a few days".

The suggestion, apparently agreed to by the Kabul regime, that a United Nations representative should be present at talks between Afghan rulers and Pakistan, is a step in the right direction, Mr Rao said.

He said he was hopeful because "whenever we have talked about talks in the past we have been told only about the difficulties. But now, for the first time, we are not hearing so much about objections. There is a response from both sides: It may not be decisive, but it is positive".

India is keen that some sort of formula for talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, even if tacit, should be arranged before the foreign ministers meet here. If India could be seen as the promoter of talks it would enhance its leadership of the nonaligned movement.

It would also go some way towards repairing the damage done by India's failure, in the eyes of some nonaligned countries, to condemn outright the Russian occupation.

The belief that some sort of breakthrough is possible originates from a letter written to Dr Waldheim by Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, suggesting that a United Nations representative should be appointed to initiate should attend talks between Afghanistan and its neighbours.

Trouble for Reagan man on Capitol Hill

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 16

While most of President-elect Ronald Reagan's nominees for Cabinet posts are sailing smoothly through their confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill, Mr Raymond Donovan, his choice for Secretary of Labour, has run into serious problems over allegdly unethical practices by his New Jersey building firm.

Mr Donovan, who was executive vice-president of the Schiavonne Construction Company until his nomination, has testified before the Senate labour and human resources committee just once earlier this week. That session was postponed several times while members waited for information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a second session due yesterday was put off for the same reason.

The latest postponement came amid reports that the FBI had obtained the testimony of a mysterious witness who claimed that Mr Donovan's firm had made dubious cash pay-offs for industrial peace. Details have not been disclosed but Mr Reagan has told reporters he knows what the evidence consists of. "He (Mr Donovan) has told me this is absolutely not true" Mr Reagan said "and I have every confidence in him".

Earlier allegations against Mr Donovan's company focussed on a claim that it had paid $13,000 (about £5,400) to a businessman who has been identified as a go-between for "laundering" pay-offs from building contractors to figures in organized crime.

The Labour Secretary-designate said he had thought the payment was for dumping rights on a piece of land owned by the businessman.

He also testified that he had only just discovered that his company had employed a "ghost" worker in 1977 to guarantee industrial peace with a branch of the Teamsters Union. He said he had assumed that the worker was genuine. Such practices are common in the construction industry particularly in the north-east.

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, head of the committee investigating Mr Donovan, has said that he believes Mr Donovan is in the right. But he said today that the latest allegations against Mr Donovan will require at least another week of investigation. "We just have to have time to check these allegations out", he said.

Practically all of Mr Reagan's other nominees have now been approved by Senate committees. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick's candidacy as United States representative at the United Nations was approved unanimously by the Senate foreign relations committee yesterday as was that of Mr Terrel Bell as Secretary of Education by the Senate labour and human resources committee.

After a short hearing yesterday, the Senate judiciary committee today unanimously confirmed Mr William French Smith as Attorney-General in the new Administration.

Leading article, page 1[illegible]

15 million Hindi listeners cannot be wrong

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 16

The BBC's Hindi language service, heard by 15 million people every day, larger than almost any other of its programmes, marked its fortieth anniversary in Delhi today.

A hundred people from the six northern Hindi-speaking states attended a reception

One listener, Jakjit Singh said: "People like the BBC service for its clarity and impartiality and because it does not give us propaganda. When there are big events going on in the world everything stops whole people listen to what the BBC says."

Asians arrested in Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, Jan 16.—President Julius Nyrere of Tanzania has ordered the arrest of about a dozen prominent businessmen, mostly Asians, as part of a crackdown on corruption official sources said today.

The men, arrested in the past week under presidential detention orders, include Mr Abdu Haji, chief representative in Tanzania of the Aga Khan, and Mr Akbar Rajpar, a leading shipowner.—Reuter.

Operation for Premier

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 16.—Datuk Hussein Onn, the Malaysian Prime Minister, will leave for the United States within the next three weeks to have an operation for a coronary bypass, informed sources said

The sun sets forever on a hundred expense accounts

By Leslie Plommer

Another source of colonial friction will be eliminated today on Caribbean sands where once the invading British Tommy sunned at Her Majesty's expense.

If the passing of Anguilla's beaches from the silica of human conflict will be mourned by the British soldier, there is another professional army whose members will equally shed a tear into the glass as Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, takes part this weekend in celebrations sealing the island's formal separation from St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

That second army is the international press corps, whose hopes first quickened in June, 1967, when there were arrests and shooting on the island and Anguillans declared that they "preferred death" to government from the hated St Kitts in the three-island group which Britain had created as an associated state the previous February.

Spirits fell temporarily when Anguilla signed an interim agreement aimed at reconciling it with St Kitts.

But the Anguillans' termination of the pact in January, 1969, came like a new dawning. And when one of Mr Ridley's Foreign Office predecessors, Mr William Whitlock, was run off the islands by armed men after arriving as a peacemaker, the sun burst forth on a hundred journalistic expense accounts hitherto waning pale under northern late-winter skies.

Mr Whitlock implied that American gangster-investors had taken control of the island; Mr Ronald Webster (now the island's elected leader) reaffirmed secession from St Kitts; and at first light on March 19 Britain invaded to stop the division of the state it had formed.

During the preceding year, Mr Anthony Lee, described by The Sunday Times as an "anyone-for-tennis" figure sent as Britain's adviser to the island, had lived in a bungalow whose ground floor was the office of the rebel leader Mr Webster.

Mr Lee was popular among the islanders but secessionist feelings reigned and the invasion came.

While Her Majesty's Marines were occupied leaping into defensive postures at the slightest backfire from island motorbikes, the world press was engaged in its own self-parody, with the Americans denouncing Britain's "last colonial gasp" of suppression and the Russians denouncing "traditional gunboat diplomacy".

British troops stayed on the island for six months, while at home photographs showed them grinning and supine on the beaches. The press invaders on Anguilla watched and drank and rang up the usual charges, but eventually could no longer justify another week's extension on this flat, scrubby strip of coral.

The press left, the troops left and an Act of Parliament put Anguilla under direct British control, where it remains.

Martial law to end before Korean elections

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, Jan 16

The presidential elections are to be held on February 25, the South Korean Government announced today. The electorate will first go to the polls on February 11 to vote for a 5,278-member electoral college and this college will select the new president.

President Chun has promised that martial law will be completely lifted before the start of elections.

During the inauguration of the new Democratic Justice Party (DJP) yesterday, the President disclosed his intention to stand as the party's presidential candidate and accepted its nomination as party leader.

The Democratic Korea Party (DKP), which is expected to be the main opposition party, will hold its formal inauguration tomorrow and has decided to make Mr Yoo Chi Song as its party leader and presidential candidate.

Four other parties are expected to be inaugurated and to elect presidential candidates before the end of the month. There are, in addition, another nine potential parties but it is not yet clear if these will actually come into being.

About 130,000 civil servants who, between November 1963 and the end of 1980, had been disciplined with loss of pay and promotion, were today told that their rights would be restored.

Most were from the lower ranks of the Civil Service

Leon Spinks says his gold teeth stolen in mugging

Detroit, Jan 16. — Leon Spinks, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, said today he was mugged outside a Detroit bar and robbed of clothing, cash, jewelry and gold teeth worth about $45,000 (about £19,000).

Spinks, aged 27, said he was knocked unconscious on Wednesday night and awoke 13 hours later, naked, in a motel room miles away.—Reuter.

Russia accuses Asean nations of joining anti-Soviet block

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 16

In the past few months the Russians have become increasingly alarmed at the growing military and political links between the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). They are now accusing Asean of teaming up with China, Japan and the United States into a grand anti-Soviet alliance.

Moscow has reacted with a scarcely contained mixture of anger and alarm to the current visit by Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, to the Asean capitals. The Russians believe it was inspired by the United States with the frank aim of weaning the five countries away from the nonaligned movement and using them as the basis for a western-oriented "Pacific community".

The pretext, they say, is the Kampuchean problem. They accuse the Americans of whipping up worries in Asean over Vietnamese military involvement in Kampuchea to draw the association into "military adventures"—in other words, to strengthen its own defences and renew its demands that Vietnam withdraw from Kampuchea.

In this, the Russians maintain, the Americans are being aided by the Chinese, whose real motive is the "hegemonistic" increase of its influence in the area, and the Japanese, who are really out only to exploit the Asean countries commercially and make them economically dependent on the capitalist world.

A commentary by Red Star, the Army newspaper, earlier this week said the Americans wanted to draw Asean into military confrontation with the socialist countries of Indo-China.

It said Washington found it more and more difficult to act as a gendarme around the world, and was therefore trying to get Asean, Japan, Australia and New Zealand to take over its functions in the western Pacific while the Americans concentrated their forces in the Middle East and the Gulf.

"The Soviet Union cannot be indifferent to the Pentagon's adventuristic plans of turning Asean into a political-military block", the paper continued. "Implementation of these plans would complicate still further the situation in South-East Asia and would do irreparable damage to the national interests of the Asean countries themselves."

The problem for the Russians, however, is that they have little influence over the Asean countries, and not much prospect of improving relations with them as long as Moscow is so closely tied to Vietnam and its policies in Indo-China. Also, for various reasons, bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia have been gradually deteriorating for several years. Not surprisingly, therefore, the association has appeared increasingly anti-Soviet in Moscow's eyes.

Until now the Russians have been reluctant to denounce the Asean alliance outright or to blame its members for their poor relations with Moscow. Instead, commentators have tried to show that Asean is being manipulated, against its interests and better judgment, by China, Japan and the United States.

A senior Pravda commentator said Tokyo was Washington's accomplice in rearming China, a country that had designs on South-East Asia. "While prattling about 'mutual trust and cordiality', Japan is trying to draw the Asean countries into the Pacific community."

He said Mr Suzuki was "flirting" with Asean to conceal his country's real aims: keeping South-East Asia under the political influence of imperialism and perpetuating the region's enslavement by international corporations.

And in a less than subtle way another commentator reminded Asean that Japanese militarists had tried to do the same thing before the Second World War, with all the resultant suffering for the peoples of South-East Asia.

At the same time the Russians are attempting to expose China, Japan and America as false friends of Asean. Tass ironically gave considerable publicity to the admission by a former Malaysian communist insurgent leader that China was arming and backing the communist "terrorists" against the "legitimate Government" in Kuala Lumpur.

Saturday Review

J. Pierpont Morgan
the discriminating collector

by Andrew Sinclair

Like Cyrano de Bergerac, Morgan's life and love life were famous for his nose. More and more, it looked like an overripe pomegranate. In his early life this affliction made him silent and withdrawn. In his middle life it made him brusque and aggressive. In his later life he learned to live with it, commenting that he could not appear in the streets without it. Morgan's nose had become international folklore. As he said himself, "It is part of the American business structure."

If Morgan's first rule was discretion, his second was indiscretion. But in that order. He was notorious for travelling with beautiful women on the Corsair or in his private railroad cars while his wife stayed at home. Yet he bought a conspiracy of silence. No reporter dared to name names for fear Morgan might buy his whole newspaper from behind his back. No editor risked printing names in case of a libel suit. And no mistress would speak out and lose her golden goose.

Morgan had the power to ensure the privacy enjoyed by his contemporary, Edward, Prince of Wales, in pursuit of the same satisfactions. And like the Prince of Wales, he did not forgive those who broke his rules. When Charles M. Schwab, whom Morgan had just made president of the steel trust, went on a scandalous junket to Monte Carlo, Morgan dressed him down like a bad servant for daring to sully the reputation of a Morgan company, even by association.

"But all I did," Schwab said "was what you have been doing behind locked doors for years."

"That, sir," Morgan replied, "is what doors are for."

With the double standard of the Victorian gentleman, Morgan put his wife first, as long as she stayed in the home and in her proper place. A neighbour who knew him well said that Morgan was a great gallant, but that few knew of his wife's beauty and charm. One who did was the actress Mary Anderson de Navarro, who found Mrs Morgan amusing, even about her husband's passion for collecting. "Why," she said, "Pierpont would collect anything from a pyramid to Mary Magdalene's tooth."

Morgan believed absolutely in the purity of the home and partition outside it. The women of his family were hardly ever allowed in the Drexel building. That was a male preserve; in fact, George Perkins was forced to keep his woman secretary across the street. Only when Morgan was beginning to retire was she allowed to occupy a cubbyhole inside the Drexel building, where the old man could not possibly see her.

As for the various Corsairs, they were understood to be Morgan's pleasure ground, an understanding shared by the wives of the other plutocrats who owned yachts. Mrs William B. Astor once admitted that she had never set foot on her husband's boat, and then she added: "Dreadful confession from a wife, is it not?"

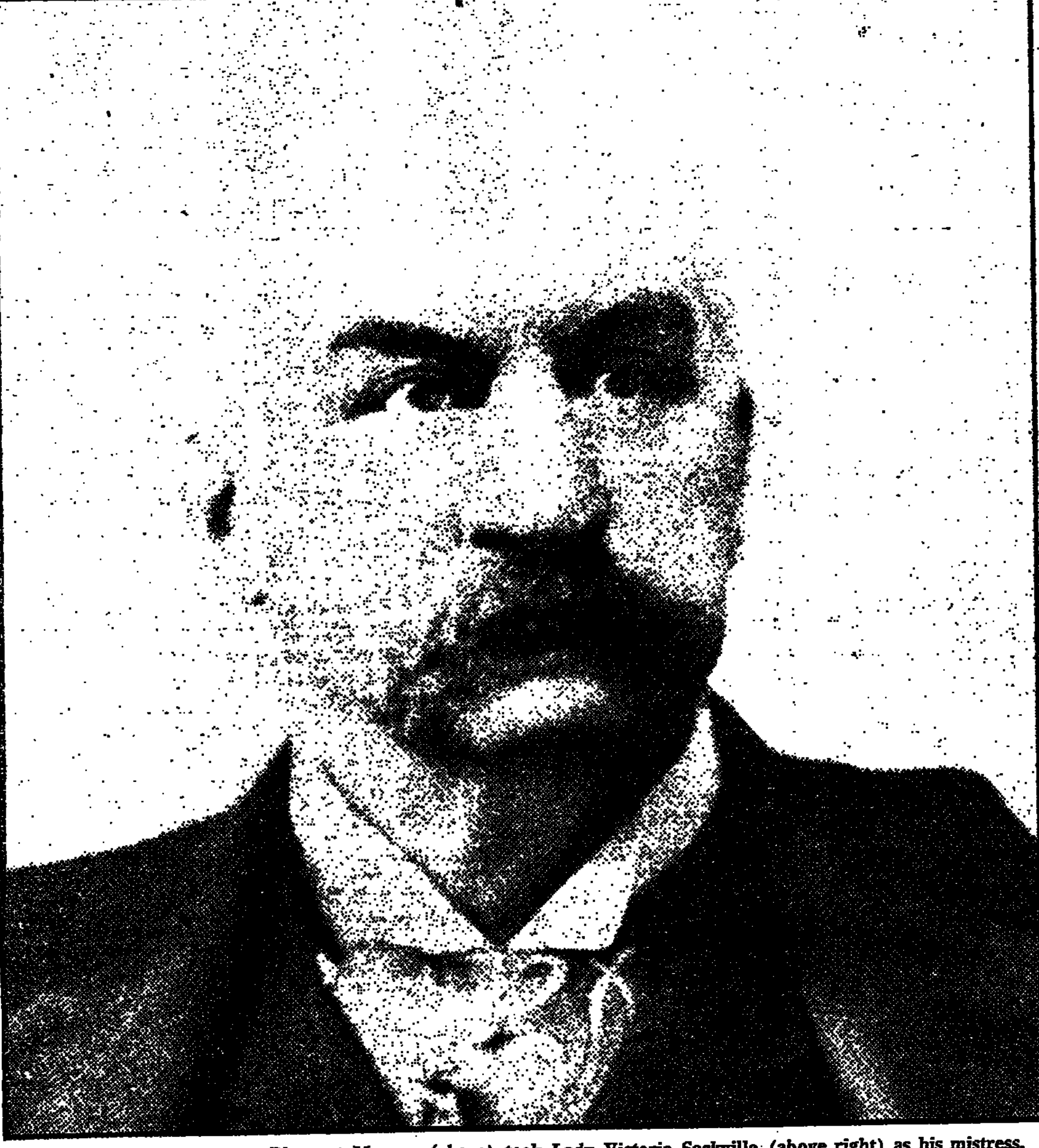
It was usual at that time. It was better for a wife to hear nothing of her husband's private amusements. Mrs Morgan was a wife in the proper mould. In later life she disliked the limelight as much as her husband enjoyed it. She often disappointed him by her shyness. She would refuse to wear the Worth gowns he bought her and she would frequently decline to go with him to great formal occasions. In a way she could blame herself for his notoriety with other women. She did not choose to compete.

Morgan's taciturnity covered his tracks. He wrote few letters, except to his father when Junius was alive, and these he destroyed. Love letters from him do not exist. If they were written, they were returned or bought back and destroyed. He never felt the need to boast or to confess. Who would wish to be a Don Juan if he could be a Morgan? Except in one case, there is no record of his technique as a lover. And that record was kept in a family beyond even Morgan's control, a family now famous for its many indiscretions.

In 1900 in London, Morgan met the famous Lady Victoria Sackville. The illegitimate daughter of a Spanish dancer and Lionel Sackville-West, she had served as her father's official hostess at the British embassy in Washington at the age of 18. Queen Victoria herself had approved of this extraordinary arrangement, and Victoria Sackville-West had been the toast of Washington during the 1860s.

She had returned to England to marry her first cousin, Lord Sackville, and to be the mistress of the great house of Knole. In later years, she became the mistress of Sir John Murray Scott, the secretary and heir of Sir Richard Wallace, and the man who persuaded Lady Wallace to leave her dead husband's great collection to the nation in 1900—at least, the pieces he did not remove for himself.

That was the year Lady Victoria met Pierpont Morgan. She was immediately attracted to his power and magnetism, noting that she even liked his gigantic nose. (She was not like the notorious English peeress, mentioned by James Henry Duveen, whose debts of £200,000 were to be paid by Morgan; but after his down payment of £15,000, she had welshed on the bargain with the remark, "I just cannot bear the thought of being kissed by that nose").





Courtesy of the Library of Congress



Pierpont Morgan (above) took Lady Victoria Sackville (above right) as his mistress. She wrote: "I have not met any one as attractive." But his tame art expert, Roger Fry (right) considered him "too much a God Almighty".

In fact, Morgan's ugliness drove him to conquer beautiful women, and his urge to possess drove him to collect them, as if they were illuminated manuscripts or rival railroads. He was constantly on the attack, as Lady Victoria's diary disclosed, and he loved mixing business with pleasure, art with flesh.

She was ready to be courted after 1909, when Sir John Murray Scott had a stroke; he would die within three years, leaving a legacy worth half a million pounds to Lady Victoria. And after 1909, Morgan was ready to court her, after losing Maxine Elliott to Edward VII at Marienbad. When Lady Victoria met Morgan again, she was pleased to find another wealthy protector, who might take Sir John Murray Scott's place in her life and use his fortune to help keep up Knole.

Although Morgan was in his seventies, she was mesmerized by his aura of power. He had bought Gainsborough's *Miss Linley* for £36,000 from the Knole collection, and he invited her to Prince's Gate, apparently to discuss further art deals. Her diary for July 8, 1911, records:

> We sat on a long sofa, yards away from each other! It was most awkward. He asked me what and why we had to sell anything. I said, "Lloyd George's super tax and land tax and the death duties". He answered, "Damn Lloyd George . . . I want to help you. What have you got to get rid of?"
>
> "Tapestries."
>
> "I don't want any tapestries, let me come down to Knole and look around."
>
> "No, Mr Morgan . . . it is a case of take it or leave it."
>
> He thought for a few moments and said, "Well, I'll take your tapestries to help you. How much do you want for them?"

They soon agreed on a price of £65,000. On the way to the door Morgan folded Lady Victoria in his arms, saying: "I hope you don't mind". She was utterly astonished at such a sudden approach. Twelve days later, he came to Knole and was delighted at what he had agreed to buy, particularly a tapestry called *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Ten days after that, he came to dinner at Knole. The diary reads:

> I had a long talk with him in the garden. He told me many of the bothers of being rich, but the great thing to have was personality, which he has to an infinite degree. He has a wonderful personality. I have not met anyone as attractive . . . he is full of life and energy; a wonderful man.

After that, Lady Victoria went regularly to Prince's Gate. She had to see him hurriedly between business meetings, but she was fascinated by watching him decide what to do about his worldwide financial empire. When he left England that autumn, she waited for his return in May of 1912 on his way to Egypt. The diary for May 20 reads:

> I called on busy Mr Morgan at Prince's Gate. He was arranging a loan with ten men, for China, but he gave me half an hour all the same. He came in like a whirlwind and crushed me, saying he had longed for this moment, that he had told nobody of his return, but wanted to see me at once. . . . I can think of nothing else. That man has such marvellous personality and attraction for me.

She wrote this despite a quarrel over the Gainsborough portrait, *Miss Linley*, which she could not bear to see hanging in Prince's Gate and not at Knole. She offered to buy it back from him, when she had the money. He refused to part with it at any price. She accused him of liking *Miss Linley* better than her, but he replied:

> that I was the only woman he loved and would never change. He is very careful not to get me talked about and told me so, and said it would be too dangerous to come to America this winter. He keeps on saying that there is nothing better in the world than the affection he has for me. How can he find time to come as he does, beats me, as I know he is so busy. I won't talk about *Miss Linley* or money with him; I hate it. Our friendship must be free from any sordid motive.

Two days later, Morgan visited Lady Victoria alone. He told her that he had cared for her ever since he had met her, but had not dared tell her. He confessed how much he had been in love on the day when he had talked to her in the garden at Knole. He swore he would always love Lady Victoria, even if she fell ill or became ugly.

And so he left her for his last voyage to Egypt and his death the following March in Rome. At 74 he was behaving like the impractical, romantic young man he had been at the time of his marriage to Mimi Sturges, sweeping an experienced and sophisticated peeress of 50 off her feet as if she were a young girl.

His death was timely for his private love of her. She was in the storm of a great scandal in 1913, reported everywhere. The heirs of Sir John Murray Scott sued her for undue influence over her benefactor and for the return of the half-million-pound legacy. She was cross-examined for two days by F. E. Smith, the most brilliant barrister of his time; but she was one of the few witnesses who ever defeated him. She persisted in treating him as if he were a cad whom she had to tell off at dinner. She did her best to embarrass him socially, and she succeeded. She won the case and kept the legacy for Knole. But Morgan would have hated the notoriety.

This last late love affair of Pierpont Morgan is the only one on record. It showed his latent romanticism and his aggression. He liked to use his power, to crush and dominate the women in his life. After his long repression by his father and by Victorian morality, he was greedy for the experiences he had missed in his young manhood and long apprenticeship. With the urbane manners of Edwardian society, whereby the rich and powerful were allowed their clandestine liaisons, Morgan came out of the display cabinet, but not as far as the press. Arrogant as always, he thought he was immune from publicity because he had the power to suppress it. And except for Lady Sackville's diary, he was successful. But even with such elaborate caution, no man can hide everything forever.

Morgan's frantic acquisition of what was probably the greatest collection made since Lord Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace's was done openly and overseas. He used the profits of his investment banks in New York and London and Paris to buy up works of art on an unprecedented scale for Edwardian times. As he rarely bothered to distinguish between the private and the public, the books of his firms were said not always to balance at the year's end because of his personal extravagance.

His lavishness was imitated by the Duveen brothers, who needed Morgan bank guarantees for millons of dollars to acquire large collections; he himself used to pledge his credit at his banks for payment a year ahead to cover the millions of dollars he spent with the dealers on every European trip. In April and May of 1906 alone, he contracted to pay three-quarters of a million dollars in Paris on *objets d'art*, which he supplemented by buying heavily in Rome and London during the summer. When his son-in-law asked him why he was spending so much and storing it all in Prince's Gate he replied that he was making trouble for his executors.

Because of the revenue service at home, Morgan had kept the bulk of his collection in his twin adjoining houses at Prince's Gate. The display was so magnificent that even King Edward VII came to see it. He walked around, noting that many of the pictures acquired by Morgan used to hang in the country houses of his friends. On one visit, he criticized Morgan's taste, asking him why he had hung Lawrence's portrait of Nellie Farren, the Countess of Derby, in a room with a low ceiling. "Because I like it there, sir", Morgan replied, putting the King on the same level of familiar equality as he put the Kaiser.

If the plundering of Europe by Morgan and the Duveens helped to educate future generations of Americans, it irritated and diminished the Old World cultures. Morgan might have had to leave the bulk of his collections on loan in English museums if he had not managed to help change the revenue laws of his home country. As early as 1903, he had consulted the Secretary of the Treasury about bringing his treasure trove back to America for exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum—so long as there were no customs duties to be paid. Six years later a law was passed that works of art more than 20 years old could be imported into America without paying duty; the law was later changed to 50 years and then abolished. This was the signal for the transfer of the Morgan hoard across the Atlantic.

After he had become president of the Metropolitan Museum in 1904, Morgan's ambition was not only for the enrichment of his monumental library, but also for the ennoblement and education of the citizens of New York through their leading display case o. antiquities. His problem was that he tried to run the museum like a fiefdom, and that the other trustees and even the curators were not prepared to act as villains. As the Great Gatsby discovered, Americans were occasionally willing to be serfs, but were always obstinate about being peasants. Although Morgan's imperiousness usually carried the day, he could be confronted from time to time, if never confounded.

Every triumph seems to provoke a chosen enemy, and Europe's riposte to Morgan's splendid piracies was to send over the aesthete Roger Fry. Beloved by Virginia Woolf, Fry was a precious, vain and modish art critic, desperate to keep afloat his *Burlington Magazine* in London. His reputation as an expert was almost as great as Bernard Berenson's, and he cost less; he did not demand a 25 per cent sales commission from the Duveens for authenticating Italian works of art. Fry knew of the boom in old masters across the Atlantic and hoped to fleece the American millionaires without compromising his disapproval of them. When Morgan asked him to come to New York in 1905 to act as second-in-command to Sir Purdon Clarke at the Metropolitan Museum, he jumped at the chance.

On his arrival in New York, he made an immediate display of his expertise. He found Morgan's Chinese ceramics collection marvellous, but the pictures at the Metropolitan a nightmare. "The blatant forgeries done by any hack Royal Institute man that Agnew could lay hands on are enough to make you stagger," he wrote back to his wife, "and all these things have been accepted without a murmur."

Fry was summoned by Morgan on to his private railroad car to go to Washington and visit the President. Morgan behaved not as a host, Fry commented, "but exactly as a crowned head and everyone else behaves accordingly." Morgan joked that the Englishman would become an American, which Fry did not accept. His attitude towards Morgan was both damning and fawning. He noted that the financier's huge cigar was called the Regalia de Morgan, and that the whole thing was "regal and yet how infinitely provincial."

Morgan overwhelmed Fry with a largesse of promises, backing for the *Burlington Magazine* and a free hand for purchases for the Metropolitan Museum. Fry felt.

> like a courtier who has at last got an audience, and, as though, for a few minutes I wield absolute power. I think I behaved tactfully and indeed why should I *not* be able to manage, for they've not got anything but money to intimidate you with. There's precious little distinction or cachet about the whole lot, so one ought to be able to hold one's own. Really, he strikes me as a big man all the same and too big in his ambitions to be low or mean or go back on his word.

In this preliminary euphoria, Fry saw himself as the arbiter of the immense art boom taking place in America. He was exhilarated by the bigness of the job and his own confidence in the future. Then he fell into the trap of greed that Morgan's luxurious style spread as a lure about him. Fry tried to renegotiate his proposed salary, increasing it by half. Morgan became furious with him because, in Fry's words, "he had made up his mind that things were to be just as he'd said and that no one could dispute his dictates". He was running the Metropolitan Museum as he ran the board of any of his reorganized companies. He tried to break Fry's resistance by withdrawing his offer of help for the *Burlington Magazine*. In writing home, Fry complimented himself on his own courage:

> Above all, I don't regret that I stood up to Morgan. If I hadn't, my position here would have been intolerable. He's not quite a man; he's a sort of financial steam-engine and I should have been in the position of watching the cranks work and dancing attendance. I wanted if we came to be in a position of complete independence, able to help him by advice without looking to him for any returns. But he likes to be in a position of being surrounded by people he has in his power to make or unmake. . . . He's much too much a Gold Almighty.

Fry's letter was a little disingenuous. Morgan was the power behind the rapid rise of the Metropolitan Museum, and as long as he was alive, he would interfere with its salaried officers. There was no question of independence in those jobs. But a kind of compromise was effected. Morgan gave Fry some money for the *Burlington Magazine* and retained him as a European adviser and curator of paintings for the Metropolitan. Fry returned to London, where his presence on the Morgan payroll made him even more vitriolic against his benefactor. He not only bit the hand that fed him, but asserted his master was blind.

Fry now claimed that Morgan did not need anything but flattery; he did not wish to listen to what art critics said; he wished them to confirm his personal judgments. "All he wants experts for is to give him a sense of his own wonderful sagacity." Morgan, in Fry's view, was too swollen with pride and with his own power to allow other people their rights. Even his artistic choices were finally damned by Fry with the jibe "a crude historical imagination was the only flaw in his otherwise perfect insensibility towards art".

It was the final flutter of the butterfly crushed by the buffalo, not the sneer of the aesthete condemning the Philistine. Morgan had a long experience as a ferocious collector with an eye for the good work and the main chance. "*Entre nous* he's a brigand like all these great business men", Fry complained to his wife. "Business is warfare is their acknowledged motto, so one has to be pretty sharp."

That is what Fry particularly hated: Morgan's success in getting what he wanted in art as well as business. Yet Fry failed to judge himself for doing in New York what he affected to despise in others. "The money pours in here like anything", he wrote home. "I charge £20 for an opinion on a picture and have already had to give it on quite a lot."

Despite his sniping, Fry followed as meekly as a towed boat in the wake of Morgan's plundering trips to Europe. He agreed with the financier's decision not to purchase a Degas, possibly *Le Viol*, because its subject might offend the "Comstockians" of New York despite its beauty; in his early days, Morgan had supported the Society for the Suppression of Vice, which had allowed Comstock to impose his prudery on the city.

Fry also complained to his wife that Morgan would not help the Metropolitan Museum acquire anything that did not redound to his glory. Finally, after four years of lip service, he lost his post over a superb Fra Angelico *Virgin and Child* from the collection of Leopold, King of the Belgians. Fry had reserved it for the museum. A few days later, Morgan himself saw the picture in Paris and bought it for his private collection. With the occasional bravery of the man who despises himself for what he is doing, Fry decided to write to Morgan, telling him that the French art dealer had sold the Fra Angelico only because he believed that Morgan was completing the purchase that Fry had made on behalf of the museum.

The letter infuriated Morgan, who called it the most remarkable letter he had ever received. He made his anger known in the museum, which terminated Fry's contract with six months' notice. He would not tolerate any examination of the nice line he trod between being a private collector and a public benefactor. He wanted to enjoy a work of art himself before it might hang as a Morgan loan or gift in the museum so largely developed through his support.

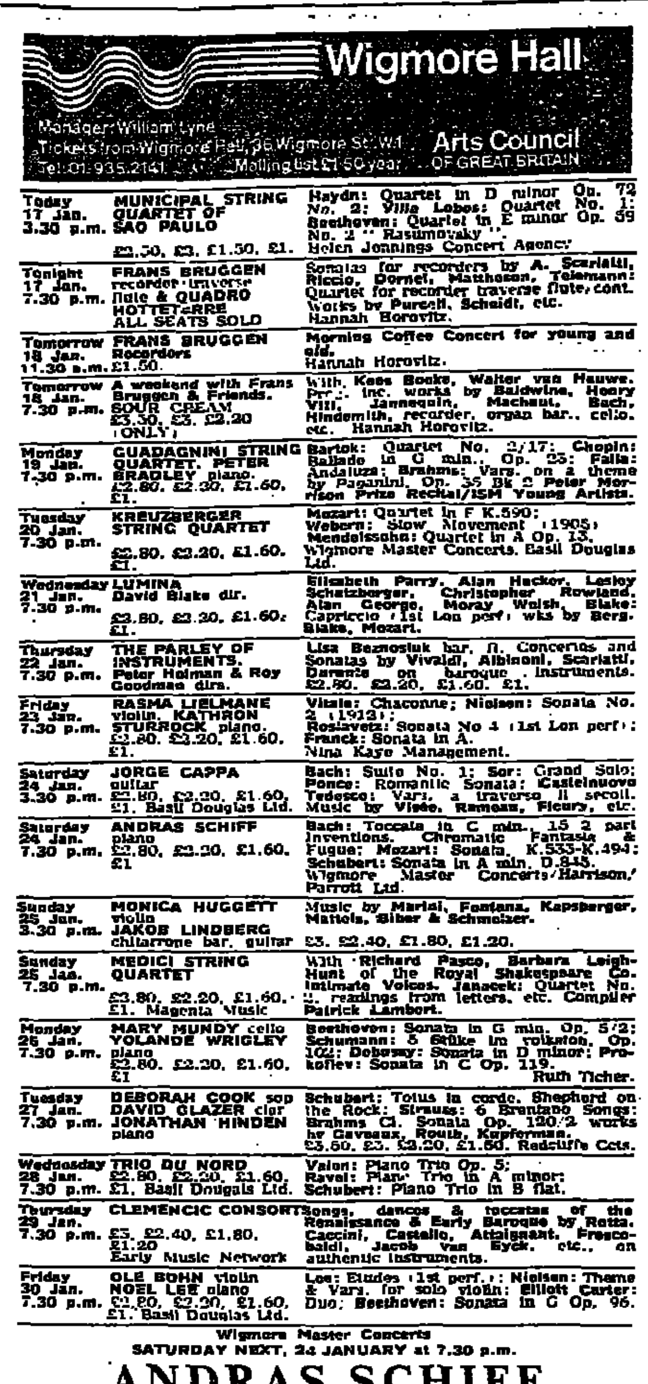
Morgan's indulgence of his tastes in women and art, and his ruthless pursuit of the most desirable, were part of a grand style that he felt was his earned due. He would have to account to God in the end, but he usually felt secure enough to be able to balance those accounts, all in all. His was the semi-divine right of the Edwardian gentleman to take what he pleased to the glory of the senses and with the connivance of his conscience.

At a dinner party one evening at Prince's Gate, an English lady turned to Morgan's friend, Bishop Lawrence, saying how interesting the collections were in Morgan's house. "My dear madam", the bishop replied, "the most interesting thing in this house is the host." He was right, and his reasons for saying so explained the admiration of the few people who ever pierced the financier's armour of arrogance, which so repelled Roger Fry. While staying at Prince's Gate, the bishop had cause every day to marvel at some characteristic in the titan at home.

"He was in some ways as simple as a child, most emotional, most bashful, masterful, courageous: a genius in his instinct for things beautiful; with a brain that drove him ceaselessly on in his search for beauty and his desire to acquire the best. His dominant characteristic was his intuition of truth: his eye and mind seemed to pierce and consume shams and lies."

So searching in exposing the truth of others, Morgan hid his own. He was two things to all men: admirable to the few people who knew him, dreadful to the masses who did not. Solitaire was his usual card game, and his silences explained nothing.

This extract is taken from Corsair *by Andrew Sinclair, to be published by Weidenfeld in May at £10.*



(continued on page 8)

Lucie Arnaz: escape from TV

Who is Danny Thomas? The answer will probably be provided only by film buffs who make a habit of answering quiz questions correctly. He played the title role in the remake of *The Jazz Singer* in 1953. Those who had hopes that Danny Thomas would efface the sentimental memory of Al Jolson were very quickly disappointed: the memory of the remake and its lead vanished smartly.

The hopes for the third version of *The Jazz Singer* which opens in the West End in a fortnight's time, are pitched considerably higher. Neil Diamond this time plays the singer who deserts the synagogue for a rock group and Sir Laurence Olivier, who has proved in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Marathon Man* that he can look more Jewish than any rabbi, is the father and cantor who is left at home with a broken heart and a failing voice. Diamond provides his own songs, many of them familiar, and EMI Films should turn a penny or two on the record sales. This is his debut on the large screen and so it is for Lucie Arnaz, who plays Molly, the gentile manager, who turns the Jazz Singer into a success far from the ghettoes of New York.

Or almost. Miss Arnaz had made one previous picture, *Billy Jack goes to Washington*, which is *still* languishing somewhere in the vaults of Hollywood, although she claims she has attended three West Coast premieres of it. Her experience of the small screen however is enormous. She is the daughter of *Lucille Ball* and Desi Arnaz and had a six-year stint on her mother's television show *Here's Lucy* before she thought it was time to cut away from the maternal apron-strings. The first signs of independence had come when she was eight and had asked her mother for a theatre as a birthday present: "We had a spare garage and turned that into a stage with a few seats at the front. *It really became legitimate* when I managed to install a box-office. We used to lip-synch to records and I remember that I used to insist on taking all the Ann Margret parts. We were an all-girl company, called the Proscenium Players, because my brother Desi would not have anything to do with us. *Indeed he made* a point of going off on tour with his rock 'n' roll group when we were on."



Neil Diamond and Lucie Arnaz

Lucie Arnaz made her Broadway debut in the Neil Simon-Marvin Hamlisch musical *They're Playing Our Song*, which became an instant success. It has been generally assumed that Simon only barely fictionalized the on-off affair between Mr Hamlisch *himself and* the lady who provided the lyrics for the show, Carole Bayer Sager. Miss Arnaz disagrees.

"It wasn't a real-life story. After all, there's a bit of me in the female lead: *I* write lyrics too. And I think there's as much of Neil himself in the part of Vernon Gersch as there *is of Marvin.* The key to Vernon is that he's a guy you're in awe of, and that's certainly how I felt when I first auditioned for Neil.

"Neil has a reputation for ruthlessness, for dismissing people early in the run. But if he likes you he'll do everything for you. If something isn't working then he will rewrite in a matter of minutes. He instills tremendous confidence and I don't know anyone who makes me laugh as much as he does. He is there to please the audience and that is exactly what he succeeds in achieving."

Last autumn Lucie Arnaz opened on the West Coast in *Whose Life is it Anyway*, alternating the parts of the patient and doctor with her husband, Laurence Luckenbill. It was marriage à la mode, with equal shares: "Dr Scott is not exactly the role you can get your teeth into. One of the critics said that the character was lacklustre and, God, was he right. You've really got to work to get that lustre." She was much amused by the fact that a few evenings earlier, Tom Conti, the original patient in *Whose Life* in London, had just opened in *They're Playing Our Song* in the West End: "It just goes around and around. I sent Tom a good luck telegram on the first night saying, 'Who's been sleeping in my bed?'."

It was the Broadway performance in *Song* which won Lucie Arnaz the part in *The Jazz Singer* virtually sight unseen. There was not even a screen test. "As you know, there was a great deal of chopping and changing during the opening weeks of shooting Molly altered shape a great deal: first she was over-vulnerable, then she became a caricature of a tough agent. By the time I arrived I guess they were right back where they started. It was when Richard Fleischer took over the direction, roughly midway through the film, that everything began to fall into place.

"I recall on the very first day in New York the sprinkler system broke in the studio we had rented and a black—and very wet—cloud hung over everyone's head. But Richard put it together. He's a very gentle man, but he doesn't let himself be trampled on. He started talking to Neil [Diamond] in musical terms and that helped a lot. We began to realize that it could be a funny and touching picture as well as the Double Kleenex Pack variety.

"Why don't I sing in the film myself? We discussed that one and they even tried to find a place for me to sing—I'd love to have a few royalties off a Neil Diamond album, God knows. But we ended up by deciding that it was a single singer movie. After all, the best number in *Song* is 'Fill in the Words' and I didn't get to sing that one either."

John Higgins

Radio

Social Relevance

With commendable conscientiousness, the BBC has been putting out repeats of those programmes which won Society of Authors Pye Awards in the twelvemonth up to last July: a *fortnight* ago we heard Jennifer Johnston's *How Many Miles to Babylon?* turned faultlessly into radio by Denys Hawthorne to win the adaptation prize. On January 9 it was the turn of Catherine Lucy Czerkawska's *O Flower of Scotland* which won the best new radio play award for Radio Scotland and so received its first national transmission.

The title referred to that maudlin song bawled by Scotsmen when in their cups or at football matches or both and epitomizing male chauvinism—North British version. Here Johnnie is its representative, plumber by trade, a man almost wholly unadmirable except that everyone admires him: his *rough machismo is* said to be what manhood is all about; women, goes the story, fall for it in spite of all they may *say* to the contrary, and men who do not have it are at the least not immune to its attractions. In this class we find Bob, Johnnie's mate of many years who drinks with him and helps him home to bed, their relationship still tinged with the hero-worship of boyhood. Yet Bob is happily if childlessly married while Johnnie is not, probably for the good reason that Bob's *wife Mary and* doubtless other women too preferred when it came to it a less aggressively masculine stance. Yet such is the state of things that Johnnie is able to pass this off to himself and the world as evidence of a free spirit. But all is not well with Johnnie: he hates what he has not got and that includes Bob's domesticity. Thus when *an opportunity* offers, he taunts Mary with still wanting him and, when she rejects him, rapes her. Two things emerge from this: the police and even Bob him*self prove to be infected* with the Johnnie ethos—there's no rape without a willing rape, they mean "yes" when they say "no": while Bob still further falls in with that ethos by *beating* Johnnie *up*, answering him in his own terms.

So much for the story—well constructed and plainly no one can fault it on contemporary social relevance: it is in fact in the category of those plays which, as Don Haworth once put it to me, "address themselves to the social-political agenda". This is a very worthy category obviously, interesting and productive, but it is a very large one and if you write within it then no matter how relevant your theme there is a risk that your play is going to sound like a lot of others. From this point of view I thought *O Flower of Scotland* was rather like a lot of other plays that I have heard. This of course leaves us with the equally important consideration of what the author makes of her subject matter: Catherine Lucy Czerkawska did some things very well—I remember above all a conversation between Bob and Mary as they lay in bed and talked of what had happened to them, but it seemed to me implausible that Bob would have delivered the peroration he did before laying into Johnnie. Between these two levels of accomplishment, I thought the play was workmanlike.

Does a place on the social/political agenda, some very good writing, some less appropriate and a general impression of the workmanlike—does all that sound like the ingredients for the winner of a major prize? In the abstract, no. But juries have to work in the context of what people nominate and this sets me wondering what the competition can have been. Without abandoning the social or political I remember for example Olwen Wymark's *Find Me*: with marks as high for "relevance" (disastrous influence of disruptive child on family), Mrs Wymark's play was painful and affecting at a level and with a consistency which our prizewinner only rarely touched. Perhaps it was not nominated? Unless radio will enter its best of every kind, then in a rather unfortunate sense it ends up with the winners it deserves.

I had a good time in the curious and enigmatic way that Borges offers with the adaptions by Norman Thomas di Giovanni and Susan Ashe of *Three Problems for Don Isidro Parodi*. The ex-barber turned amateur detective sits in his prison cell, convicted on what appears to be a trumped up charge. With amazing freedom of access a *diversity of people*, united only by the fact that they find themselves under suspicion of serious crimes, seek him out and tell him their often bizarre and complicated stories. *The great man* asks at most a couple of apparently inconsequential questions before delivering the solution. Holmes is the nearest model but Don Isidro operates without once visiting the scene of the crime—as how could he? It is all done by—I was going to say pure intellection, but that is not the way at all. The method of the Great Deducer is, as Isidro's second name suggests, parodied. One listens, as one reads this author, with a sense of slight exasperation, but tinged with amused satisfaction and it is the latter part of *this response* which endures and amplifies after the telling is done. There is a parallel here with some aspect of experience having nothing to do with matters social and political but no less "relevant" for that. Piers Plowright's direction nicely set off the intriguing character of these contrivances.

Davide Wade

One Big Blow
Half Moon

Irving Wardle

The NCB (National Coal Board) *says one of John* Burrows's characters, is supposed to be the miners' friend, but when pneumoconiosis sets in, it stands for No Chance Brother. I am not sure whether the speaker means that it is a capitalist swindle, or that politics can never give more than marginal relief to a job that will always be a fast or slow-motion killer.

Through this ambiguity, Mr Burrows has smuggled in a play which at once accepts the political line of the 7.84 Company, and also celebrates the mining community in a way that has nothing to do with the class struggle. In particular, it builds a good story, and a brilliantly staged show, out of *the strange fact that it is the* rotten lungs of miners that have traditionally powered Britain's best brass bands.

Three weeks before the Blackpool band competition, Wally, the star cornet player, falls victim to progressive fibrosis brought on by working on a thin seam that increases the concentration of toxic rock dust.

From this opening disaster *the plot develops in two directions*; a race against time to find another player, and a fight with the management over the installation of safe new equipment. In each case the moral is the same; stick with your mates. The wild young "Psycho" gets his triumph with the band only after he stops playing the lone wolf; and the group bring round the management when they get the other two shifts on their side.

For spectators antagonistic to agit-prop theatre there is one song, "Haul Together Brothers", that confirms the boy-scout stereotype. Otherwise, the production is scraped bare of uplift and exhortation. It develops through narrative, song, athletic character change, and bursts of lunatic invention.

Mr Burrows's company of *seven play in the* round on a bare floor, costumed throughout in shorts and helmets until going into formal coats and carnations for the competition finale. They have nothing whatever to rely on apart from the text and the strength of their routines.

But from the moment when they first bound on under the brisk Geordie introductions of Billy Hughes, they take unchallenged command of the attention; and instantly prove their right to it by turning up for a band rehearsal and launching into the competition piece, an elaborate arrangement of "Ten Green Bottles" full of intricate rhythm changes and harmonic tricks. Rick Lloyd's music, and the high-precision part singing of the group, are a great pleasure in themselves and supply the basis for the show's repeated escapes from naturalism into games and fantasies.

A typical number shows the band scouring the district for a new player: starting with men *in the street and* then interrupting a duel (where their hopeful candidate is shot dead in the midst of "Oh My Papa"), and winding up on the moon.

Another amazing episode develops from the crazed character of Jimmy (Brian Hibbard), the underground lavatory attendant and resident medium, who puts the distracted colliery manager in touch with a whole dynasty of mine owners who parade like Banquo's progeny advising him to bring in the troops and turn the strikers out of their houses.

This episide is subsequently *answered by a visit from the* chairman who proceeds from an obsequious board room meeting ("In the nature of the job . . ." "Can't make an omelette without . . .") to a coalface visit where he faints away after *remarking* that the climate is remarkably similar to that of the Bahamas.

Blistering satire of that kind is uncommon in a production which leaves the brute facts to speak for themselves and prefers to cultivate quiet irony, lusty vitality, and theatrical skill at its most courageous.

Baroque Dance
Laban Centre

John Percival

The New York Baroque Dance Company, which opened a short tour of London dance centres with a performance at the Laban Centre on Thursday, offers a more lavish and theatrical view of eighteenth-century dances than we generally see. Not only are the costumes rather splendid, especially the red and blue dress worn by Catherine Turocy in her solos as Armida, but the range and intensity of expression are notable too.

Because of the lack of continuous tradition of performance, any attempt at reconstructing these dances has to involve an element of guesswork and personal taste, especially as the surviving notation does not include arm gestures. Pictures and descriptions provide clues, and on the whole I would say that Turocy and her associate director, Ann Jacoby, show a fair degree of insight.

It is possible to quarrel with details in their interpretation. All the women's costumes have skirts of about the same length, for instance, a few inches above the ankle, which is right for the later dances in the programme but not the earlier ones. Some of the postures are probably a little too balletic, but it is difficult to be sure how far that is a fault of execution rather than conception. The other dancers are less skilled in the style than their directors.

However, it *would* be silly to let quibbles deter anyone from seeing this ensemble. The programme goes far beyond the formal dances which other groups have shown, extending on the one hand to the solo for Apollo from Lully's *Triomphe de l'Amour*, in the original choreography of Louis Pécour, and on the other to a comic suite for two harlequins, a pair of shepherdesses, and a lady who is two-faced, thanks to some of the excellent masks used for several numbers (you really should see what they can do for a pair of expressive eyes).

Music is provided by Concert Royal, an ensemble of soloists specializing in baroque music. Besides accompanying the dances, they provide interludes: Bach's Sonata in A Major for flute and harpsichord, played by Sandra Miller and James Richman, and Handel's cantata *Mi palpita il cor*, with Drew Minter as the counter-tenor soloist. Further performances, after the Laban Centre, are at The Place and Jackson's Lane.

PERSONAL CHOICE



Muhammad Ali and Freddie Starr. They are the guests in tonight's edition of Parkinson (BBC 1, 9.45)

●Fun is poked at the disabled in the Arena film Getting Away from Sidney (BBC 2, 10.40). In bad taste? Not a bit of it. It is the disabled themselves who do it—spastics, paraplegics, accident victims and the blind. I felt uncomfortable watching it, and that is precisely the aim of the exercise because I am probably one of the Sidneys of this world who treat the disabled with too much sympathy and not enough understanding. "We who are poorly made, must live the life of the unblemished", some one says in the film. It is spoken with heavy irony, as indeed is much else in the film because this is a profile of a theatre group made up of disabled people who call themselves Graeae. There is vitriol, too, in their little show, and it singed my conscience.

●Did you see . . . ? (BBC 2, 5.00), in which, as a general rule, sensible people talk a lot of sense about television, is so valuable a mirror to what is excellent and banal that it deserves more than its miserly 35-minute slot. Another 15 minutes will help get rid of the generalizations that, occasionally, bedevil the series. Tonight's team of critics, lay and professional, will be discussing the Vanessa Redgrave film Playing for Time, the Arena film Hazell Meets his Makers, and ATV's detective thriller Wolcott. All this and Jeremy Isaacs, the boss of Channel 4, too—in 35 minutes. Quite impossible, of course.

●Parkinson (BBC 1, 9.45) is going through one of its good patches. I thought Mr Parkinson was over-reverential in his handling of James Cagney and Pat O'Brien the other week, but the interviews made unforgettable television. There was, in fact, something historic about the encounter. Tonight's guests are a good boxer but bad poet (Muhammad Ali), and a variable impressionist but excellent comedian (Freddie Starr). Mr Ali has sparred with Mr Parkinson several times before, but he was a champion then, glorying in his invincibility. Now there has been a dramatic change in his fortunes, and no doubt tonight's interview will reflect that fact.

●*Radio in general, and Radio 4 in particular, is strong in the spoken work today, what with a dramatization (by Terry James) of H. G. Wells's space fantasy The First Men in the Moon (8.30), once a rib-tickling film with Lionel Jeffries but now presented as Wells wrote it; the first part of a new adaptation (by Barry Campbell) of Hasek's The Good Soldier Svejk, with Richard Griffiths as the dog seller (2.30); a second hearing of Tales from the Dark Continent (3.55) which, for older listeners, will stir memories of Leslie Banks in Sanders of the River; and Geoffrey Watt's investigation into the phenomenon we call sleep (10.15). In music, I unhesitatingly select Ashkenazy and the English Chamber Orchestra playing Mozart's piano concerto number 13 (Radio 3, 8.00).*

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am Horseback: How to tackle cross-country rides (r). **9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop**: Magazine programme for children; far less hysterical than Tiswas on ITV. **12.12 pm** Weather.

12.15 Grandstand. The line-up is: Football Focus (with Bob Wilson) at 12.20; Racing from Ascot at 12.50, 1.25 and 2.00 (the Lambert and Butler Premier Chase); World Cup Skiing (men's downhill, from Kitzbuhel) at 1.10; International Rugby Union Championship prospects at 1.45; Wales v England from Cardiff Arms Park at 2.20; *France v Scotland, from* Parc des Princes, Paris, at 4.00 (see also BBC 2, 7.25); International Darts (Embassy World Professional Championship) at 4.20; Final scores at 4.40.

5.35 News: with Angela Rippon.

5.50 The Dukes of Hazzard: *Comedy about a buried army pay roll* and the greedy hands that are clutching at it. **6.35 Jim'll Fix It**: Five youngsters find their dreams have come true, thanks to Jimmy Savile. One of them launches a ship.

7.10 Nanny: Second of the drama series starring Wendy Craig. Tonight, she cares for the son of an impoverished Irish couple, and encounters the snobbish world of the Kensington Gardens "Nanny Mafia". **8.05 The Dick Emery Show**: The comedian plays an entire Anglo-German family.

8.40 News. And sports round-up. **8.55 Dallas**: Pamela (Victoria Principal) makes a worrying announcement, and JR (Larry Hagman) continues to undermine Bobby's (Patrick Duffy) leadership of Ewing Oil.

9.45 Parkinson: Michael Parkinson's guests are Muhammad Ali and the comedy impressionist Freddie Starr. (See Personal Choice).

10.45 Film: **The Man who loved Cat Dancing** (1973) Off-beat western, with Sarah Miles running away from her stuffy husband and becoming involved with a gang of train robbers led by Burt Reynolds. Director: Richard C. Sarafian. Ends at 12.45 am when there is the weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS:— BBC Cymru/Wales: 5.45-5.50 pm Sports News Wales. [illegible] SCOTLAND: 1.55-4.20 pm [illegible] 5.10 Scoreboard [illegible] Northern Ireland [illegible] England: [illegible] 12.50 am Close.

BBC 2

10.35 am Open University (with a break at 11.00). Energy in the home: 11.25 Countdown to the OU: 11.50 S101 Preparatory maths: algebra. Closedown at 12.05 pm.

2.50 The Sky at Night: Patrick Moore goes to Mount Palomar and sees the world's largest working telescope, a 200-inch giant (r).

3.15 Play Away: Comedy and music, for the younger viewer. With Brian Cant and Nerys Hughes, Alex Norton, Jonathan Cohen. Also, the Play Away Band.

3.40 Film: **Pin-up Girl** (1942) Musical comedy. Betty Grable is the secretary who becomes a national celebrity when she falls in love with a naval hero (John Harvey). Also starring Martha Raye, Joe E. Brown and Eugene Pallette. Director: Bruce Humberstone.

5.00 Did You See . . . ? A critical look at the week's TV, with Ludovic Kennedy in the chair. Among the programmes to be discussed is Arthur Miller's film about Auschwitz, Playing for Time. (See Personal Choice.)

5.35 International Darts: The final of the Embassy World Professional Championship. **7.10 News**. And sports round-up. **7.25 International Rugby Special**: Highlights of the *Wales v England match, and the* France v Scotland clash.

8.15 Film International: **Love on the Run** (1978) The last of Truffaut's films about Antoine Doinel (first seen in Les quatre cents coups). He is now over 30, separated from his wife and involved in a new affair. With Jean-Pierre Leaud, Marie-France Pisier. English sub-titles.

9.45 Sons and Lovers: A second chance to see part one of this serialization of D. H. Lawrence's novel about difficult love in the Nottinghamshire coalfield. With Eileen Atkins, Tom Bell.

10.40 Arena: Getting Away from Sidney. Profile of an extraordinary theatre company group of disabled actors called Graeae. With excerpts from their play Side-show. (See Personal Choice.) **11.30 News**. *11.35 The Old Grey Whistle Test*: Adam and the Ants and the Reluctant Stereotypes. With Anne Nightingale as presenter. **12.15 am The Outer Limits**: American science-fiction drama. The Mutant. Ends at 1.10.

London Weekend

8.35 am Sesame Street: *Learning, with The Muppets when they were younger.* **9.35 Chopper Squad**: Air and sea rescue dramas, including a *ski-diving accident*. **10.30 Tiswas**: Totally uninhibited children's show. With Chris Tarrant, Sally James.

12.30 pm World of Sport. The line-up is: 12.35 On the Ball (with Ian St John) 1.00 World Cup Skiing (the men's downhill, from Kitzbuhel, Austria); 1.15 News; 1.20 World Barrel Jumping Championship. 1.40 The ITV Six from Market Rasen at 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45, plus greyhound racing from Harringay; American Football (*the AFC/NFC Playoffs*) at 3.10; Half-time scores at 3.50; Wrestling (from Catford) at 4.00; Results service at 4.50.

5.05 News from ITN. *5.15* **Search for a Star**. Variety contest compered by Steve Jones. With a rock band, a comedy duo, a comedian and two singers. **6.05 Punchlines!** Star guests team up with contestants to try to remember who *said what—and where*.

6.35 3*2*1: Family quiz game, with Ted Rogers as MC. The theme is *nursery rhymes*. The guests include Ken Goodwin, Peter Goodwright and Bonnie Langford.

7.35 Film: **Carry on Henry** (1971) Rollicking "Carry On" comedy with *Sid James as Henry the* Eighth, Kenneth Williams as Sir Thomas Cromwell, Terry Scott as Wolsey. *Not historically sound* . . . Director: Gerald Thomas.

9.15 News from ITN. And sports round-up. **9.30 The Professionals**: *A band of mercenaries*, experienced in jungle warfare, is parachuted into Britain. With Gordon Jackson, Martin Shaw, Lewis Collins.

10.30 The Big Match: Highlights from three of today's football matches. With Brian Moore and Jim Rosenthal.

11.30 Film: **Grip of the Strangler** (1958) Above-average shocker, with Boris Karloff as the novelist who discovers that, in the strangling case he is investigating, he is the killer. With Jean Kent, Elizabeth Allen.* Director: Robert Day.

12.50 am Close: Richard Easton *reads* two stories from Thurber's Fables for Our Time.

FILMS ON TV

by David Robinson

The week's Film International is **L'Amour en fuite** (Love on the Run) tonight, BBC 2, 8.15, the *latest and maybe the last episode* in François Truffaut's chronicles of the life of Antoine Doinel, the *child* from Les Quatre Cents Coups, now grown up. The latest film has elaborate flashbacks and cross-references to the others, which cover a period of over 20 years.

Pinup Girl (this afternoon, *BBC 2, 3.40*) *36 years old, has* still much to offer, to wit Betty Grable, Martha Raye, Joe E. Brown and period flavour. Then there are a couple of films, both *starring* James Stewart, by Anthony Mann, who at best was *no more than a serviceable action* director. In **Strategic Air Command** (tomorrow, BBC 1, 7.15) Stewart plays an air force reservist in a *very jingoist piece*, informative at least about the then newest bomber aircraft. In **The Naked Spur** (Tuesday, BBC 2, 7.00), a rather portentous Western set in Colorado, Stewart is a bounty hunter.

There must be people who really like the thrills, spills and other old clichés of the motor race picture, since it gets made over so often. **Winning** (Monday, BBC 1, 9.25) is the same again, this time with Paul Newman. *Compulsion* (*Friday*, BBC 1, 11.50), Richard Fleischer's reconstruction of the Leopold-Loeb trial, with Orson Welles for the defence, is still one of the most gripping court-room dramas.

British films on the whole fare *better. Launder and Gilliat's 1945* **The Rake's Progress** (tomorrow, BBC 1, 1.55) is a lively period piece with Rex Harrison as the charming inter-war cad who ends as a war hero. **Charlie Bubbles** (tomorrow, BBC 2, 11.25), Albert Finney's only venture as director, is still the best valediction to the swinging Sixties—the story of a writer who leaves behind metropolitan sophistication in vain search of his provincial roots. The Music Hall Greats series offers Alberto Cavalcanti's meticulous 1944 recreation of the early days of the halls, **Champaigne Charlie** (Thursday, BBC 2, 6.00). Tommy *Trinder plays the "Lion Comique"*. George Lashwood, and Stanley Holloway his rival, The Great Vance.

After the Fox (Wednesday, BBC 1, 7.20) is a bizarre and totally abortive marriage of dis*parate talents*: *Vittorio de Sica* as director, Neil Simon as writer and Peter Sellers as star of a grimly unfunny comedy caper.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am Shipping forecast.
6.30 News.
6.32 Farming Today.
6.50 Yours Faithfully.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.10 On Your Farm.
7.40 Today's Papers.
7.45 Yours Faithfully.
7.50 It's A Bargain.
7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.10 Sport on 4.
8.45 Today's Papers.
8.50 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Breakaway.
9.50 News Stand.
10.05 The Week in Westminster.
10.30 Daily Service.†
10.45 Pick of the Week.†
11.35 From Our Own Correspondent.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm *Money Box.*
12.27 The News Quiz.†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 *News.*
1.10 Any Questions?
2.00 News.
2.05 Wildlife.
2.30 Series: The Good Soldier Svejk, by Jaroslav Hasek (1).†
3.25 International Assignment.
3.55 Tales *from the* Dark Continent (2).
4.40 Profile.
5.00 Alternative Medicine (3).
5.25 Week Ending.†
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 Desert Island Discs.†
6.55 Stop the Week.
7.35 Baker's Dozen.†
8.30 Play: The First Men in the *Moon, by H. G. Wells.*†
10.00 News.
10.15 Come, Let's to Bed, says Sleepy-Head.
11.00 Lighten Our Darkness.
11.15 A Small Country Living.
11.45 The Armchair Traveller.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

Radio 3

7.55 am Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Converse, Copland, etc.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review.†
10.15 Stereo Release: Handel (Samson, Act III).†
11.15 Bandstand.†
11.45 Diversions: records.†
1.00 pm News.
1.05 Early Music Forum.†
2.00 Play it Again: outstanding music of the past week.†
5.00 Jazz records.†
5.45 Critics' Forum.
6.35 Classical Guitar: Bach, Haydn, Castlenuovo-Tedesco, Gregory.†
7.10 BBC Singers/ Joly: Bantock (Vanity of Vanities).†
8.00 ECO/Ashkenazy (live from Festival Hall), pt 1: Beethoven (op 133), Mozart (Pno Conc 13).†
8.50 Story: The Pukey, by Nigel Dennis.
9.10 ECO, pt 2: Schoenberg (Verklärte Nacht).†
9.40 Quartet (Gabrieli): Haydn (op 42).†
10.00 Organ (Weir): Messiaen (incl Messe de la Pentecôte).†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Mozart.†

VHF
7.15 am-7.55 Open University: *Consumer Decisions—Citizens' Advice*: Into the Open (2)—Writing Skills.

Princess Margaret is the castaway in Desert Island Discs (Radio 4, 6.15)

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.02 Tom Edwards.† *8.06 David Jacobs.*† 10.02 Pete Murray.† 12.02 pm The Magic of Stanley Black.† 1.02 The Impressionists. 1.30 Sport: Rugby; Football; Ascot Racing; Tennis; Sports Report. 6.03 European Pop Jury. 7.02 Beat the Record. *7.30 Big* Band Special.† 8.02 Country Greats.† 10.02 Nordring Rendezvous.† 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Tom Browne.† 2.02 am-6.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.03 Playground. 8.00 Tony Blackburn. 10.00 Steve Wright. 1.00 pm Adrian Juste.† 2.00 A King in New York.† 2.05 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 *Walters' Weekly.*† 5.00 Rock On.† 7.30 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am *With Radio 2*. 1.00 pm With Radio 1. 7.30-6.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):—

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News about Britain. 7.15 From the Weeklies. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Come Here. 8.30 David Jacobs' Album Time. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Science in Action. 10.15 About Britain. 10.30 Aspects of the Blues. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 New Ideas. 11.25 The Week in Wales. 11.30 Time Off. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Anything Goes. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Come Here. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 Country Style. 2.00 David Jacobs' Album Time. 2.30 Play It My Way. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Saturday Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Saturday Special. 5.00 News Summary. 5.02 Saturday Special. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary. 8.15 People and Politics. 9.15 The Book Programme. 9.45 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.00 World News. 10.09 Theatre Call. 10.30 News Ideas. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letterbox. 11.30 *Jazz for the Asking*. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Play of the Week. 1.30 David Jacobs' Album Time. 2.00 World News. 2.09 *Review of the British Press*. 2.15 People and Politics. 2.30 Sports Review. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 3.30 Time Off. 4.00 *Newsdesk. 5.45 Letter from America.*

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Channel
As London except: Starts 12.30 pm World of Sport. 5.16 Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.18-6.05 Search *for* a Star. 11.30-12.25 am Quincy.

Westward
As London except: Starts 9.30 am The Adventures of Niko. 9.55 Look and See. 10.00 Fangface. 10.25-10.30 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 11.30 pm Quincy. 12.25 am Faith for Life. 12.30 Weather. 12.31 Closedown.

Anglia
As London except: Starts 9.30 am The Beachcombers. 9.55 Rocket Robin Hood. 10.15-10.30 Mystery Island. 11.30 pm The Stanley Baxter Season. 12.30 am The Late Debate.

Scottish
As London except: Starts 9.10 am Simply Sewing. 9.35 *Cuir Car*. 10.05-10.30 The New Fred & Barney Show—Blood Brothers. 12.00 Late Call. 12.05 am Barney Miller. 12.35 Closedown.

Granada
As London except: Starts 9.15 am Doctor. 9.40 Babylon. 10.05-10.30 Bailey's Bird. 11.35 pm *For Adults Only*. 1.35 am Closedown.

Yorkshire
As London except: Starts 9.00 am Simply Sewing. 9.25 Spiderman. 9.40-10.30 240-Robert. 11.30 pm SWAT. 12.30 am Closedown.

Gordon Jackson: The Professionals (ITV, 9.30)

HTV
As London except: Starts 9.10 am Babylon. 9.35 Doctor! 10.00 The Undersea Adventures of Captain Nemo. 10.05-10.30 Batman. 11.30 pm Hagen. 12.25 Weather and Closedown. *HTV CYMRU/WALES*: As HTV west except: 6.05 pm-6.35 Ras Sgwar.

Southern
As *London except*: Starts *9.00 am* Sesame Street. 10.00 Clapperboard. 10.27-10.30 Regional Weather Forecast. 11.35 pm The Stanley Baxter Season. 12.30 am Weather.

Border
As London except: Starts 9.10 am Simply Sowing. 9.35 Babylon. 10.00-10.30 Alright Now introduced by Phil Lynott. 11.30 pm Closedown.

Grampian
As London except: Starts 9.10 am Simply Sewing. 9.40-10.30 Sesame Street. 12.00 Reflections. 12.05 am Barney Miller. 12.30 Closedown.

ATV
As London except: Starts 9.10 am Simply Sewing. 9.35 Babylon. 10.00-10.30 The Fantastic Four. 11.30 pm Quincy. 12.30 Closedown.

Tyne Tees
As London except: Starts 9.00 BJ and the Bear. 9.50 Cartoon: Ferdinand the Bull. 10.10-12.30 Film: The Heroes of Telemark. 11.40 pm Doctor Down Under. *12.10 am Three's Company*. 12.15 Closedown.

Ulster
As London except: Starts 9.15 am Doctor! 9.40 Play Squash Jonah's Way. 10.05 Cartoon Time. 10.20 Sesame Street. 11.20-12.30 pm Tarzan. 11.30 Bedtime. 11.40 Closedown.

PERSONAL CHOICE



Detail from The Temptation of St Anthony: It is discussed in The Mysteries of Hieronymus Bosch (BBC 2, 8.10)

●After watching Dr Nicholas Baum offering his solutions to The Mysteries of Hieronymus Bosch (BBC 2, 8.10), I got the feeling that, for him, discovering the reason for the Mona Lisa smile would be mere childs' play. I hesitate to say, however, that his intesrpretation of Bosch's paintings—he decipers the mysteries using the Bible as his Rosetta Stone— is a new one; I lack the necessary artistic perspective to make such a a judgment. But once you swallow his initial premise that Bosch was a pious, orthodox and fierce Christian, obsessed with sin but certainly not with grotesque and devilry and that (to quote the art sleuth), he was "man of many angers, furious at the gullibility of the people around him", then the clouds of enigma that shroud those brilliant and disturbing images begin to lift. An absorbing film, marred only by an *excess of contemporary padding.*

●I don't think that anyone writing about television has noted the existence of This is the Day (BBC 1, 12.15). It is time *somebody* did. Having watched *two of these* religious programmes, designed to help viewers to worship at home, I must say I find them unprecedented in style and content. Our armchairs become pews, *except there is no church*. The TV set becomes an altar, with Bible, candle, bread, and flowers. On screen, a constant flow of pictures—everyday objects, man-made and Nature-created, a picture book of this *wondrous world of* ours. Then come the letters, from the dying who don't despair, from those in desperate need of our prayers. The non-ecclesiastical voices throughout are calm and comforting. There is profound wisdom in the simple things they say, and the troubled mind cannot but benefit from them. There are clear indications in This is the Day that television *has at last* found a way of bridging the gap between those who believe and those who can't but wish they could.

● The Life of a Great Sinner, Radio 3's profile of Dostoevsky (8.00), which prepares us for this week's readings from The Eternal Husband (beginning tomorrow night, Radio 3, 10.05) has contributions from a gaggle of experts, a multi-national cast who make their points with commendable brevity and a reasonable degree of clarity. I particularly liked Professor Simon Karlinsky's advice to his Dostoevsky students: "You have to imagine a society in which everyone is running a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit." The readings are by Alan Dobie, and the linking is by Alex de Jonge, of New College, Oxford, whose microphone style does not, I am afraid, make for relaxed listening.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Sunday's programmes

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 am Heads and Tails: animal snippits, for children. **9.15 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan**: For Asian viewers. Stories, news and music.

9.45 Your Own Business: First steps for the freelance (r).

10.10 The Handicapped Family: Help for those who have to care for the disabled (r). **10.35 Write Away**: Help for those who can't *remember how to spell* (r). *10.47* **Let's Go**: The right clothes for the mentally handicapped. **11.00 Your Move**: Brian Redhead helps people with writing and reading problems. **11.25 Kontakte**: German lesson, number 13. *Muss ich lange warten?* **11.50 Make Your Own Furniture**: Success with upholstered wooden seating (r).

12.15 pm This is the Day: Neighbours are the theme of today's service in which the viewer is wholly involved. (see Personal Choice.) **1.00 Farming**. **1.25 Training Dogs the Woodhouse Way**: Making Fido learn how to walk to heel (r). **1.50 News**.

1.55 Film: **The Rake's Progress** (1945): Social comedy about a modern ne'er-do-well (Rex Harrison), very loosely based on the Hogarth prints. Also starring Lilli Palmer. Director: *Sidney Gilliatt*.*

3.50 Young Scientists of the Year 1981: First heat of the annual *contest for the Royal Institution* Trophy. More prizes this year.

4.25 Match of the Day: Action from yesterday's Football League games.

5.25 The Talisman: Penultimate episode of Sir Walter Scott's *period adventure drama*. With Patrick Ryecart as Kenneth and Stephen Chase as Richard the Lionheart. **5.55 News**: with Richard Baker.

6.05 Holiday: How Torremolinos is trying to woo back the British holidaymaker. Also, *items on* Corsica and a journey through Italy, beginning at Pisa.

6.40 Songs of Praise: From St Eugene's Cathedral, Londonderry.

7.15 Film: **Strategic Air Command** (1955): American air force drama, *with James Stewart as a* baseball player recalled to the peacetime reserve. With June Allyson. Director: Anthony Mann. **9.05 Solo**: Felicity Kendall comedy series. Tonight, she gets a job as a social worker. Her ex-boy friend (Stephen Moore) still pursues her.

9.35 That's Life: *Another oblique* look at our daily existence, by a team that sometimes rights *wrongs*, other times is childishly silly or genuinely witty.

10.15 News. **10.25 Everyman**: The Purity of the Gun. Film about an elite commando unit of the *Israeli* army, exploring the relationship between their beliefs as Jews and their work as professional soldiers. **11.00 Sixteen Up**: How teenagers learn to cope with having to live at home (r). **11.25 Sergeant Bilko**: *Phil Silvers in an* army comedy; old but still fresh and funny. **11.50** Weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC CYMRU/Wales: 1.25 pm-1.50 *Dechrau Siarad*. 1.55-2.0 Tom and Jerry. 2.0-3.10 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 3.10-4.25 Sports Line-up. 6.40-7.15 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol. 11.0-11.30 Troi'r Dail. 11.30-11.55 16 up. 11.55 News for Wales. Close. Scotland: 1.0 pm-1.25 Landwarn. 4.25-5.25 Sportscene. 10.25-10.55 Spectrum: Directions Sculpture. 10.55-11.30 Coast to Coast. 11.30-12.5 am Everyman: Hemmed In. 12.5 News for Scotland. Close. Northern Ireland: 11.50 pm News and weather for Northern Ireland. Close. England: 11.55 pm Close.

BBC 2

10.35 am Open University. Countdown to the OU. **11.00** The pre-school child. **11.25** Consumer decisions: *semi-detached*. *11.50* Health choices. Closedown at 12.15 pm.

3.00 **Horizon**: A *Whole New* Medicine. Second showing of last Monday's film about holistic medicine (*health for the whole person*) about which some American doctors are most enthusiastic (r). *3.50 Everybody's Doin' It*: Follow-up to the recent John Julius Norwich series about old home movies, featuring some of the people who appeared in them.

4.25 Ireland: **A television History**. Repeat of part 7 of Robert Kee's painstaking series. How Carson brought Britain to the verge of civil war in defiance of a Home Rule act (r). **5.20 The Red** *Arrows*: *Film about the aerobatic* squadron. The music is by Sky. **5.25 Ski Sunday**: The men's downhill and the men's slalom, from Kitzbühel. **6.05 News Review**: Angela Rippon, with subtitles.

6.40 The Money Programme: Is the optimism about British package holiday prospects justified? Valerie Singleton *investigates*.

7.15 The World About Us: The Lion of Swaziland. As King Sobhuza II gets older (he is well into his eighties), many people fear that his country, sandwiched between South Africa and Mozambique, may not be able to survive.

8.05 News.

8.10 The Mysteries of Hieronymus Bosch: An investigation by Nicholas Baum into the man and his remarkable paintings. (See Personal Choice.)

9.25 **The Much Loved Music Show**: Owain Arwel Hughes conducts the Bournemouth SO and chorus in music by Brahms, Donizetti, Dvorak, Handel, Mozart, Mussorgsky, Parry and Sibelius. Soloists: Sandra Dugdale and Richard Van Allan. **10.25 The History Man**: Part 3 of Malcolm Bradbury's satirical novel about university life. A full-scale student uproar now looks unavoidable. With Antony Sher as the amoral radical tutor.

11.25 **Film**: **Charlie Bubbles** (1968): Albert Finney (who also stars) makes a good job of directing this unusual comedy about a writer who returns to his Northern roots to discover life's meaning. With Liza Minnelli, Colin Blakely, Billie Whitelaw. Ends at 1.00 am.

London Weekend

9.05 am Simply Sewing: Dressmaking series. With Leila Aitken and Christine Knox. **9.30 Doctor!** Teenage diabetics on an adventure training course (r).

10.00 Morning Worship: From St Patrick's Church of Ireland, Newry, County Down. **11.00 Link**: A discussion on issues raised in a recent film about parents who *try to get their children out of* large institutions and back into the community. **11.30 Mork and Mindy**: Unless Mork can find someone to marry or adopt him, he faces deportation.

12.00 Weekend World: The Labour Right. Interview with Dr David Owen.

1.00 pm Babylon: Reggae and soul: the two kinds of music which reflect deep political divisions among young blacks. **1.30 20th Century Box**: *Spandau Ballet* (r).

2.00 University Challenge: *General knowledge quiz, with* Bamber Gascoigne asking the questions. **2.30 Cartoon**. **2.45 Police 5**: Help Shaw Taylor to help the police. **3.00 Survival**: The Roaring of the Deer. Robert Powell narrates this film about a year in the life of the red deer.

3.30 Doctor Down Under: Medical comedy, set in Australia. Stuart-Clark (Geoffrey Davies) applies for a job he doesn't want.

4.00 Barriers: Part 3 of this drama series about a public school boy (Benedict Taylor) who, while searching for his real parents also rediscovers his own true *identity*. With Paul Rogers as his guardian. **4.30 Chips**: Story of a runaway *circus elephant*. **5.30 The Muppet Show**: The human guest tonight is Wally Boag, the American comedian and singer. **6.00** News.

6.10 Facing Death: The immediate effects of death on those who are left behind. **6.40 Appeal**: Ingrid Bergman appeals on behalf of the Ockenden Venture which helps *refugees*. **6.45** *Your* **100 Best Hymns**: Hymns and Bible readings. With Ian Ogilvy, Derek Batey and singers. **7.15 A Sharp Intake of Breath**: Domestic comedy series. The story of the lost ticket for a World Cup match.

7.45 Hart to Hart: Crime story, with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers as a sleuthing couple.

8.45 News from ITN.

9.00 Sunday Night Thriller: Dark Secret. Part one of John Bowen's drama about a mother (Anne Stallybrass), her young son (Paul Spurrier) and the voices she thinks she hears calling to her.

10.00 Agony: Comedies about the *presenter of an "agony" spot on* radio (Maureen Lipman). She decides to give up her job to pre*pare for motherhood*.

10.30 The South Bank Show: Portrait of the black American novelist Toni Morrison. Also, a preview of Peter Nicholl's The Passion Play, including interviews *with Eileen Atkins and Billie* Whitelaw.

11.30 Oscar Peterson: Old and new *favourites from this great* Jazz pianist. With Ray Charles, Ray Brown (bass), Barney Kessel (guitar) and Roy Eldridge (trumpet). 12.30 pm Close Richard Easton reads something by Thurber.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am *Shipping* forecast.
6.30 Morning Has Broken.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.10 Sunday Papers.
7.15 *Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye.*
7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.10 *Sunday Papers.*
8.15 Sunday.
8.50 Week's Good Cause.
8.55 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.10 *Sunday Papers.*
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Morning Service.
10.15 The Archers.
11.15 Weekend Woman's Hour.
12.00 Earthsearch, by James Follett (1 and 2).†
12.55 pm Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend.
2.00 News.
2.02 Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 Play: The Liberation, by Peter Tegel.†
4.00 News.
4.02 Talking about Antiques.
4.30 The Living World.
5.00 Feedback.
5.15 Down Your Way.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 With Great Pleasure.†
7.00 Does He Take Sugar?
7.30 Origins.
8.00 Music to Remember: Beethoven.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Bookshelf.
9.35 Pen to Paper.†
10.00 News.
10.15 The Gloucestershire Night.
11.00 The Way of the Mystic (2).
11.15 Inside Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

VHF
4.00 pm-6.00 Study on 4: Teaching English as a Second Language (2); *Kontakte* (13); *¡Digame!* (1); Punti di Vista (12).

Radio 3

7.55 am Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Schumann (incl op 41, no 1).†
9.00 News.
9.05 Records: Stravinsky, Dvorak (Sym 2).†
10.30 Music Weekly.†
11.20 NYPO/Stokowski: Amirov, Shostakovich (Sym 1).†
12.15 pm Talk: Words.
12.20 Quartet, oboe (Chilingirian/Hunt): Mozart (K370), Bax.†
1.00 Book, Music and *Lyrics* (3).†
1.45 Piano: Liszt.†
2.30 Opera: The Turn of the Screw, by Britten (Radio France/Rudel), Act I.†
3.25 Interval reading.
3.35 The Turn of the Screw, Act II.†
4.35 Conversations with Artists: Adrian Henri.
5.15 Trio (Frankl/Pauk/Kirshbaum.) pt 1: Beethoven (op 30, no 7, op 1 no 3).†
6.10 One Pair of Ears: review.
6.25 Trio: pt 2: Beethoven (op 23, op 70 no 1).†
7.25 Reading: Shakespeare.
7.30 Songs (C. Watson/Parsons): Brahms.
8.00 The Life of a Great Sinner: Dostoevsky.† (see Personal Choice).
9.00 LPO/A. Davis, pt 1: Beethoven (Sym 6).†
9.45 Talk: Philosophy and Philosophies (3).
10.00 LPO, pt 2: Janacek (Glagolitic Mass).†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Tausinger.†

VHF
7.35 am-7.55 Open University: The First Years of Life—Mummies and Daddies, Husbands and Wives.

Radio 2

6.00 am News, weather. 6.02 Sam on Sunday.† 7.03 Nick Page.† 8.03 David Jacobs.† 10.02 Pete Murray.† 1.27 pm The Choice is *Yours. 1.32 Listen to Les.*† 2.02 Benny Green.† 3.02 Alan Dell. 4.02 Country Style. 4.30 Sing Something Simple.† 5.02 Two's Best. 6.02 Charlie Chester. 7.02 Treble Chance. 7.30 Marching and Waltzing. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour. 9.02 Your 100 Best Tunes. 10.02 Tony's.† 10.30 Fiesta.† 11.05 Tom Browne.† 2.02am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

8.00 am Tony Blackburn. 10.00 Noel Edmonds. 1.00 pm Jimmy Savile. 3.02 Studio B15. 4.00 John *Lennon (1).*† *5.02 Top 40.*† 7.02 Alexis Korner.† 8.00 Sounds of Jazz.† 10.00 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 6.00 am With Radio 2. 4.00 pm With Radio 1. 10.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

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REGIONAL TV

Border
As London except. 11.30 am-12.00 Gardening Today. 1.00 *pm Alphabet*: The Story of Writing: No. 2. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Border Diary. 2.05-4.00 Film: Duel at Diablo (1965). 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.15 am Closedown.

Tyne Tees
As London except: 11.30 am Babylon. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Film: Marco the Magnificent. 4.30 The Little House on *the Prairie. 11.30 Seven Ages.* 12.15 am Poet's Corner. 12.20 Closedown.

ATV
As London except: Starts 9.00 am-9.30 Farming Today. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Today. 1.00 pm Benson. 1.30 University Challenge. 2.00 Film: Panic in the City. 3.45-4.00 Cartoon: The Clock Cleaners. 4.30 The Incredible Hulk. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.15 am Closedown.

HTV
As London except: Starts 9.30 am-*10.00 Sesame Street*. 11.30-12.00 Simply Sewing. 1.30 pm Farming Diary. 2.00 Cartoon: Buffalo Bill. 2.10-4.00 Film: The Night of the Following Day. 4.30-5.30 BJ and the Bear. 11.30 Seven *Ages*. 12.15 am Weather and Closedown.

Channel
As London except: Starts 2.13 pm Weather. 2.15-4.00 Film. Run for Cover. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.10 am Epilogue.

Grampian
As London except: 10.15 am Credo. *10.45-11.00 Seachd Laithean*. 11.30-12.00 Positive Soccer with Jack Charlton. 1.30 pm Farming Outlook. 2.00-4.00 Film: Boy on a Dolphin. 11.30 Scotsport. 12.00 Reflections. 12.05 am Closedown.

Granada
As London except: Starts 9.35 am Untamed Frontiers. 11.00 Simply Sewing. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30-12.00 *Window on the World*. *1.00 pm* Happy Days. 1.25 University Challenge. 1.55 Down to Earth. 2.25-4.00 Film: Rockets Galore. 4.30-5.30 The Love Boat. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.15 am Snooker Classic. 12.45 *Closedown*.

Yorkshire
As London except: starts 9.00 am-9.25 Link. 9.55-10.00 Cartoon: Dick Tracy. 11.00 Babylon. 11.30-12.00 Farming *Diary. 1.00 pm University Challenge.* 1.30 Calendar Sunday. 2.00 Film: The World in his Arms. 3.50-4.00 Cartoon: The Country Cousins. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.15 am Five Minutes. 12.20 Closedown.

Southern
As London except: Starts 8.45 am-9.00 Communion. 11.33-12.00 Babylon. 1.00 pm BJ and the Bear. 1.55 Farm *progress*. *2.20-4.00 Film: Istanbul Express*. 4.30 Southern News. 4.35 Backstage with the Beauty. 5.20-5.30 Cartoon Time. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.15 am Weather.

Scottish
As London except: Starts 9.05 am-10.00 *Credo*. *11.30-12.00* The John Smith Show. 1.00 pm Out of Town. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Seachd Laithean. 2.15 University Challenge. 2.45 Happy Days. 3.15-4.00 The Glen Michael Cavalcade. 4.30 Wish you were here. 5.00-5.30 Benson. 6.10 By the way—Sandy McDonald. 6.25-6.40 Tell the Story. 11.30 Curling. 12.00 Late Call. 12.05 am The Odd Couple. 12.35 Closedown.

Anglia
As London except: Starts 9.05 am Doctor! 9.30-10.00 Simply Sewing. 11.30-12.00 Babylon. 1.00 pm Andy's Party. 1.30 Weather. 1.35 Farming *Diary*. *2.05-4.00* Film: The Most Dangerous Man in the World (1969). 4.30 Cartoon: The New Fred and Barney Show. 5.00 Portrait of a Village: Ludham. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.15 am The Bible for Today.

Ulster
As London except: Starts 11.00 am Simply Sewing. 11.25 Cartoon Time. 11.30-12.00 Link. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Untamed World. 2.00 Out *of Town*. *2.30-4.00 Film*: Too many Crooks. 8.40-8.45 Sports Results. 11.30 Bedtime. 11.40 Closedown.

Westward
As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Link. 11.00 Simply Sewing. 11.30-12.00 Doctor. 1.00 pm Stalin the Red Tsar. 1.45 Farm and Country News. 2.15-4.00 Film: Run for Cover. 5.25-5.30 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 11.30 Seven Ages. 12.10 am Faith for Life. 12.15 Weather. 12.13 Closedown.

GLC South Bank Concert Halls

General Manager: Michael Kaye

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STUDENT STANDBY TICKET SCHEME For information on ticket availability on day of performance only, telephone 01-633 0932.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Today 17 Jan 8 p.m.	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Vladimir Ashkenazy (conductor/piano) Beethoven Grosse Fuge; Mozart Piano Concerto in C, K. 415 (please note change); Schoenberg Verklärte Nacht, Op. 4. £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £3.80, £4.20, £5, £6 ECO Music Soc
Sunday 18 Jan 3.15 p.m.	Ilea LONDON SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Steuart Bedford (conductor), Andre Tchaikowsky (piano) Verdi Overture, The Sicilian Vespers; Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4; Bartók Concerto for Orchestra. £1, £1.50, £2, £2.50, £3, £3.50 London Schools Sym Orch
Sunday 18 Jan 7.30 p.m.	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & Choir Andrew Davis (cond.), Teresa Cahill, Anne Collins, Gordon Greer, Marius Rintzler, Christopher Bowers-Broadbent, Beethoven Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral); Janácek Glagolitic Mass. £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 (ONLY) LPO Ltd.
Monday 19 Jan 5.55 p.m.	CONCERT PLATFORM (RFH Waterloo Room). Fourth in a series of talks arranged in collaboration with Morley College. Hans Keller on Beethoven's Choral Fantasia. The talk will be followed by informal discussion. 80p Royal Festival Hall
Monday 19 Jan 7.30 p.m.	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BBC Singers, James Loughran (cond.), Felicity Lott, Stafford Dean, Edith Vogel Beethoven Choral Fantasia; Berg Three Orchestral Pieces, Op. 6; Beethoven Cantata on the death of Emperor Joseph II. £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 European B'casting Un
Tuesday 20 Jan. 8 p.m.	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, Philharmonia Chorus Riccardo Muti (conductor), Ileana Cotrubas, Agnes Baltsa, Robert Tear, Hans Georg Ahrens (pl. note change of sist.) Bach Suite No. 3 in D; Mozart Mass in C minor. ALL SEATS SOLD Philharmonia Ltd.
Wednesday 21 Jan 8 p.m.	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY Scottish National Orchestra, Sir Alexander Gibson (conductor), Paul Tortelier (cello), Nielsen Saga-drøm (The Dream of Gunnar); Dvorak Cello Concerto; Sibelius Symphony No. 2. £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6
Thursday 22 Jan. 8 p.m.	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA André Previn (conductor), Cho-Liang Lin (violin) Sibelius Violin Concerto; Shostakovich Symphony No. 10. £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 (ONLY). LSO Ltd.
Friday 23 Jan 8 p.m.	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Andrew Davis (conductor), Alfred Brendel (piano) Beethoven Overture, Leonora No. 3; Mozart Piano Concerto in D minor, K 466; Strauss An Alpine Symphony. £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 (ONLY) LPO Ltd
Saturday 24 Jan. 8 p.m.	LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY, City of Birmingham Symphony Orch. Nicholas Cleobury (cond.), Valerie Masterson, Claire Powell, John Treleaven, Leonard Mroz (pl. note change of soloists), Puccini Messa di Gloria; Rossini Stabat Mater. £2.50, £3.50, £4.20, £5, £5.80 (only) London Choral Soc.
Sunday 25 Jan. 3.15 p.m.	ALFRED BRENDEL (piano) Haydn Sonata in C Hob XVI/50; Andante in F Schubert Sonata in A minor, D.537; Liszt Vallée d'Obermann; Sonata in B minor. £1.50, £2, £3, £4, £5, £6 Ingpen and Williams Ltd.
Sunday 25 Jan. 7.30 p.m.	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Riccardo Muti (conductor), John Williams (guitar) Lutoslawski Trauermusik; Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez; Stravinsky The Rite of Spring. ALL SEATS SOLD Philharmonia Ltd.
Monday 26 Jan. 8 p.m.	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA André Previn (conductor), André Watts (piano). Panufnik Concertino for percussion & strings; Prokofiev Suite, Romeo & Juliet; Beethoven Piano Conc. No. 5 (Emperor). £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 (ONLY). LSO Ltd.
Tuesday 27 Jan. 8 p.m.	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Kurt Masur (conductor), Andras Schiff (piano). Bartók Divertimento for strings; Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 2; Beethoven Symphony No. 5. £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 RPO Ltd.
Wednesday 28 Jan. 5.55 p.m.	BACH ORGAN FESTIVAL. Simon Lindley. Bach Prel. & Fugue BWV 550; Partita BWV 770; Trio BWV 585; Haydn Clock pieces; Karg-Elert Symphonic Chorale, Op. 87/1; Guilmant Cantilene-Pastorale; Dubois Fiat lux; Willan Intro. Passacaglia & Fugue £1.20. Royal Festival Hall
Wednesday 28 Jan. 8 p.m.	LONDON MOZART PLAYERS. Mark Elder (conductor). Alfred Brendel (piano). Handel Concerto a due cori in F; Mozart Piano Conc. in E flat, K. 271; C. P. E. Bach Symphony No. 1 in D; Beethoven Symphony No. 8. £1.50, £2.30, £3, £3.70, £4.30, £4.90 Haydn-Mozart Society
Thursday 29 Jan. 8 p.m.	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Kirill Kondrashin (conductor), Boris Belkin (violin). Tchaikovsky Fantasy-Ov., Romeo & Juliet; Prokofiev Violin Conc. No. 1; Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 (Pathétique). £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 LPO Ltd.
Friday 30 Jan. 8 p.m.	LONDON SINFONIETTA & Chorus. D. Atherton (cond.), F. Palmer, P. Langridge, J. Tomlinson, J. Constable, I. Brown, H. Shelley, R. Vignoles, Stravinsky Les Noces (Orch. 2nd & Final Vers.); Canticum Sacrum; Bach/Stravinsky Choral Vars. £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Today 17 Jan 7.45 p.m.	LONDON HARPSICHORD ENSEMBLE, J. Francis (dir.) 100th South Bank Concert: Scarlatti Sonata in D minor; Bach Conc. for vln. & oboe; Brandenburg Conc. No. 5; Vivaldi Conc. in B flat for vln. & cello; Telemann Conc. in G. £1, £1.50, £2, £2.50, £3 Jane Gray
Sunday 18 Jan 3 p.m.	KOENIG ENSEMBLE Jan Latham-Koenig (cond.). Mainly Mozart Series Beethoven Rondino in E flat for wind octet; Dvorak Serenade in D minor for wind ensemble, Op. 44; Mozart Serenade in B flat for 13 wind instruments, K. 361. £1, £1.50, £2, £2.30, £2.80 Ingpen and Williams Ltd
Sunday 18 Jan 7.15 p.m.	MICHEL DALBERTO (piano) Schubert Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946; Sonata in C, D. 840 (Reliquie); Brahms Four Ballades, Op. 10; Chopin Barcarolle in F sharp, Op. 60; Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52. £1, £1.60, £2.10, £2.70, £3.20 Van Walsum Mgmt
Monday 19 Jan 7.45 p.m.	YOUNG MUSICIANS' SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, J. Blair (cond.), T. Bond (organ), Stravinsky Suite, Pulcinella; Hindemith Kammermusik No. 7 for organ & cham. ens.; Handel Organ Conc. Op. 4/6; Shostakovich Suite, Hamlet. £1, £1.80, £2.70, £3.60, £4.50 Young Musicians' S.O Soc.
Tuesday 20 Jan 7.45 p.m.	INSTANT SUNSHINE Instant Sunshine present a hilarious blend of music and humour, singing and performing a programme selected from their own original repertoire. £1, £1.50, £2.50, £3 (ONLY) Instant Sunshine
Wednesday 21 Jan 7.45 p.m.	Adrian Boult Lecture: ELISABETH SCHWARZKOPF and EDWARD GREENFIELD, The Interpretation of Lieder. A discussion with recorded examples by famous singers and accompanists past and present. £1, £1.20, £3, £2.50, £3 Brit. Inst of Recorded Sound
Thursday 22 Jan 7.45 p.m.	RUDOLF FIRKUSNY (piano) Schumann Fantasie in C, Op. 17; Kinderscenen; Brahms Klavierstücke, Op. 119; Smetana Fairy Tale; Shepherdess; Macbeth and the Witches; Polka in F minor; At the Castle £1, £1.60, £2.10, £2.70, £3.20 Basil Douglas Ltd
Friday 23 Jan 7.45 p.m.	NORTHERN SINFONIA Tamás Vásáry (conductor/piano) Fauré Pavane; Shostakovich Prelude and scherzo for string octet; Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2; Haydn Symphony No. 104 (London). £1.25, £2, £2.50, £3, £3.50 Nthn Sinfonia Concert Soc Ltd
Saturday 24 Jan. 7.45 p.m.	THE KING'S SINGERS IN CONCERT ALL SEATS SOLD The King's Singers
Sunday 25 Jan. 7.15 p.m.	BROMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY, London Bach Orchestra, Donald Cashmore (cond.), Hilary Straw, Elizabeth Stokes, David Johnston, Philip Gelling, Andrew Lucas. Caldara Te Deum; Dvorak Mass in D; Mozart Vespers, K.339. £2, £2.50, £3, £3.50, £4 Brompton Choral Society
Monday 26 Jan. 7.45 p.m.	ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE. John Lubbock (cond.), Michel Dalberto (piano). Stravinsky Concerto in D for strings; Dumbarton Oaks; Mozart Piano Concerto in C, K.467; Schubert Symphony No. 5. £1, £1.60, £2.10, £2.70, £3.20 Van Walsum Mgmt.
Tuesday 27 Jan. 7.45 p.m.	Members of the AMADEUS QUARTET with WALTER KLIEN (Pno). All Mozart programme. Piano Qrt. in G minor, K478; Divertimento in E flat, K563; Piano Qrt. in E flat, K493. (Due to indisposition, pl. note change of prog.). £3.60, £4.50 (ALL OTHERS SOLD). Ibbs and Tillett
Thursday 29 Jan. 7.45 p.m.	NEW CHAMBER SOLOISTS. D. Josefowitz (cond.), I. Biret (pno.), G. Whiting (tpt), T Soh (vln.). Bach Piano Conc., BWV 1056; Mozart Divertimento, K138; Shostakovich Conc. for piano, trumpet & strings; Vivaldi The Four Seasons. £1.10, £2.10, £3.20, £4.30 Ibbs and Tillett
Friday 30 Jan. 7.45 p.m.	SIMON HALSEY SINGERS & ORCH. S. Halsey (cond.), O. Poole, T. Trotter. Handel Zadok the Priest; My heart is inditing; Let thy hand be strengthened; Organ Conc. Op. 4/2; The King shall rejoice; Bach Ob d'am Conc., BWV 1056. £1, £1.50, £2, £2.50 Simon Halsey Singers

PURCELL ROOM

Sunday 18 Jan. 7 p.m.	RSC LONDON BRASS ENSEMBLE: Works for brass, cornetts, sackbuts & organ. Prog. inc. a new work by Nicholas Bicât; music from Nicholas Nickleby by Stephen Oliver; & music by Locke, Ewald, Adson, Nelhybel, Pezel, Frescobaldi & Sweelinck. £1.75, £2.25, £2.75. RSC London Brass Ensemble
Monday 19 Jan. 8 p.m.	GEMINI ENSEMBLE OF AMSTERDAM Mozart Flute Quartet in D, K.285; Martinu Quatuor (1947); Andriessen Divertimento a cinque. Brahms Piano Quartet in A, Op. 26. £1.20, £1.80, £2.40 John Higham Int. Artists Ltd.
Tuesday 20 Jan. 7.30 p.m.	PETER O'HAGAN (piano). Mozart Sonata in D, K.311; Schubert Four Impromptus, D.935; Schoenberg Six little pieces, Op. 19; Scriabin Three studies, Op. 65; Stravinsky Three movements from Petrushka. £1, £1.80, £2.40 Jane Grey
Thursday 22 Jan. 7.30 p.m.	OFRA HARNOY (cello), MICHAEL DUSSEK (piano). Bach/Siloti Adagio in A minor; Vitali Chaconne in G minor; Brahms Sonata Op. 38; Ben-Haim Sephardic Melody; Coulthard Allegro; Franck Sonata in A; Popper Elfentanz. £1.50, £2.50 Erica Goddard
Friday 23 Jan. 7.30 p.m.	CUMMINGS STRING TRIO, ANTHONY GOLDSTONE (piano). Beethoven Trio in E flat, Op. 3; Douglas Young Fantômes for string trio (1st Lond. perf.); Brahms Piano Quartet in C minor, Op. 60. £1.20, £1.80, £2.40 Jane Gray
Saturday 24 Jan. 7.30 p.m.	CHRISTINE BARKER (sop.), ANN CHERRY (fl.), PAUL BARKER (pno.). Martin Trois Chants de Noël; Friedhelm Döhl Seven Haiku; Paul Barker Seven Wives of David; Ravel Shéhérazade; John Dankworth Blue Portfolio (1st London perf.). £1, £1.50, £2. Pro-Art Trio

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Conductor/Soloist

BEETHOVEN: Grosse Fugue
MOZART: Piano Concerto in C, K.415
SCHOENBERG: Verklarte Nacht, Op. 4

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Monday 19 January at 7.30
(Please note change of time)

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CHO-LIANG LIN violin
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MONDAY, 26 JANUARY, at 8 p.m.
PANUFNIK Concertino for percussion & strings
A Shell U.K. Commission.
PROKOFIEV Romeo and Juliet Suite
BEETHOVEN "Emperor" Piano Concerto
ANDRE WATTS
KURT-HANS GOEDICKE MICHAEL FRYE
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Valerie Masterson Claire Powell
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MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY at 8

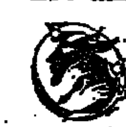
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Conductor JACEK KASPRZYK
Soloist ROMAN JABLONSKI

Overture: Tancredi .... ROSSINI
Cello Concerto in B minor .... DVORAK
Symphony No. 5 in E minor .... TCHAIKOVSKY

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WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY, at 8 p.m.



ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

RAYMOND LEPPARD

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Two Arias from Giulio Cesare
BERLIOZ: Les nuits d'été
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MAHLER

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CINEMAS

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

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MICHEL DALBERTO

Tomorrow at 7.15 p.m.

Schubert: Three Klavierstücke, D946
Sonata in C major, D840 (Reliquie)
Brahms: Four Ballades, Op. 10
Chopin: Barcarolle in F sharp, Op. 60
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

£1, £1.60, £2.10, £2.70, £3.20 from Hall (01-928 3191)

Van Walsum Management presents
MONDAY 26 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN'S

Conductor JOHN LUBBOCK
Soloist MICHEL DALBERTO

Stravinsky: Concerto in D
Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, K.467
Stravinsky: Dumbarton Oaks
Schubert: Symphony No. 5 in B flat

£1, £1.60, £2.10, £2.70, £3.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

NEW CHAMBER SOLOISTS

with IDIL BIRET piano
Tomotada Soh, violin, Graham Whiting trumpet
conducted by DAVID JOSEFOWITZ

Piano Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056 .... BACH
Divertimento in F, K.138 .... MOZART
Concerto for Piano and Trumpet .... SHOSTAKOVICH
The Four Seasons .... VIVALDI

£1.10, £2.10, £3.20, £4.30 Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents
Management: IBBS & TILLETT

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY at 7.15

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor MARCUS DODS
IFOR JAMES horn

Mozart DON GIOVANNI OVERTURE
EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
Mozart HORN CONCERTO No. 4 in E flat
Schubert "UNFINISHED" SYMPHONY
ROSAMUNDE OVERTURE

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MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.
HAYDN: Symphony 49 "La Passione"
BRITTEN: Les Illuminations
HENZE: Il Vitalino raddoppiato (London premiere)
BEETHOVEN: Symphony 1

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

RICHARD HICKOX conductor

SALLY BURGESS soprano. SIMON STANDAGE violin

£1.20, £2.20, £2.80, £3.40, £4 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

MITSUKO UCHIDA

piano

Rondo in A minor, K.511 .... MOZART
Sonata in C minor, Op. 111 .... BEETHOVEN
Sonata in G major, D. 894 .... SCHUBERT

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GATE CINEMA, Nott. Hill, 221 0220/727 5750. STARDUST MEMORIES (AA) 1.00, 2.55, 4.15, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30. THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (AA) & PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE (AA) 11.15 p.m.

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(continued on page 6)

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

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LONDON FLATS

The Times SPECIAL REPORTS

Drink

Shopping around

It is unwise to categorize wines too precisely, just as it is unwise to categorize people. Wine is not only variable in itself; it is subject to the variations of human beings—their changing personal preferences and the different circumstances in which they are drinking. That is why it is impossible to assert that one wine is "the best". All that can be done by anyone writing on the subject is to recommend wines that are good, in different styles and price ranges, and available from a variety of shops. (Space should not be wasted on bad wines.)

Anyone who buys all wine from a single retailer is depriving himself of the enjoyment of shopping around and possibly achieving sensible economies. No wine merchant can stock everything and sometimes it is more convenient to go round to the local supermarket, at others more useful to visit a merchant who can give personal advice over the counter.

People usually forget to cost their time, postage, telephone call and transport to and from any source of supply, but, if a little thought is given to the overall price of wine, it will often be found that a bottle listed as lower in price than one of the same name on a different list may be more expensive by the time postage, carriage and a possible tip to the delivery man are totted up.

All large wine retailers can now cater for the customer who wants to explore outside the classic ranges of table wines; and there has been a stimulating growth of specialized firms, mostly independent, some even run from the owner's home, concentrating on wines that are known in detail from certain areas and countries. Some of the less usual wines are never available in the quantities required by firms who must make large-scale purchases to service numerous retail outlets so the smaller specialists may have interesting bottles on offer. Here is a list of concerns that may augment the more usual assortments stocked by firms whose names are frequently mentioned here.

Australia: Australian Wine Centre, 25 Frith St, W1.
Beaujolais: Roger Harris, Loke Farm, Weston Longville, Norfolk.
California: Geoffrey Roberts, 8 Dilke St, SW3; Windrush Wines, 181 Gloucester St, Cirencester, Glos.
English: English Vineyards Association, Horam Manor, Horam Rd, East Sussex; Valley Wine Cellars, Drusilla's Corner, Alfriston, East Sussex; Mainly English, 14 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1.
Italy: Stonehaven Wines, Grayshott Rd, Headley Down, Bordon, Hants; David Burns, High St, Lymington, Hants; John's Wines & Spirits, 131 Earl's Court Rd, SW5.
Madeira: Cossart Gordon, 57 Cambridge St, SW1, and 27 White Rock, Hastings, Sussex.
Portugal: Grilli Wines, Little Knoxbridge, Cranbrooke Rd, Staplehurst, Kent.
South Africa: Cape Wine Centre, 46 Great Marlborough St, W1; Henry Collison, 7 Bury St, SW1; Robert James, 79 Aslett St, SW18; Cape Province Wine Importers, 11 Clarence Rd, Staines, Middx.
Spain: Laymont & Shaw, Falmouth, Cornwall; Arriba Kettle, 5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham; Scatchard's, 10-18 Victoria St, Liverpool; Pengallic Wines, 16 High St, Thame, Oxon, and 2 Norfolk Place, Paddington, W2.

Two wines that are likely to be novelties and useful for many purposes come from firms not included in this list, although both are somewhat special. A South American wine specialist will possibly be established soon because of the considerable value of Argentine wines; Chile, where the phylloxera never attacked the vineyards, has no grafted vines—and Brazil is said to be making interesting wines as well. Although Chilean red wines are already popular, some of the whites have tended to be rather limp and undistinguished; not so one called Concha y Tor.

This has a big, lightly fruity smell, vaguely evocative of apricots; it is full in style, "a full, soft Sauvignon", says the merchant. It is truly dry but sufficiently rounded and weighty to accompany food as well as to be drunk on its own (£1.99 from branches of Cullens, Wine Mart and Gourmet & Goblet. They have the red Concha y Toro for the same price, but, although it is agreeable it is not as impressive as the white).

A red Italian wine from the Piave region of the Veneto area recently attracted much attention at a tasting, even alongside more expensive bottles. This was Raboso di Annone 1976, La Fornarina—the latter name is that of the estate belonging to the Tombacco family who produce the wine. The Raboso seems to be an odd grape, picked later than most, with a reputation for the bouquet it produces, which is assertive and immediate. Because the wine has not yet got a DOC it must simply be labelled "vino di tavola" but, as is well known, bits of paper and initials on labels cannot guarantee quality *or enjoyment*.

This Raboso has a tawny aureole where the wine meets the glass—it has benefited greatly by maturation; the bouquet is warm and robust, the flavour fruitily pleasing with a big, lingering after-taste. This is a jolly wine, admirably made, but, as the delectable fragrance fades after a few hours, the bottle should be finished at a sitting.

Raboso di Annone 1976, La Fornarina is shipped by Harvey Prince, The Broadway, Farnham Common, Bucks, who will supply names of local *stockists on request*. The many merchants attracted to it include Charles Hennings, Pulborough, Sussex; Gales Wine & Food Bar, Llangollen, N. Wales; Chaplins of Worthing, Sussex; Saltmarsh & Druce, Witney, Oxon; Beaconsfield Wine Cellars, Beaconsfield, Bucks. It costs about £2.30.

Pamela Vandyke Price

Bridge

Thinking again

If you buy shares on the stock exchange there are many economic factors which can cause them to rise or fall. Similarly, the original valuation of a bridge hand will fluctuate considerably in the light of the bidding. It is that valuable reassessment which has been saddled with the ugly title "plastic revaluation".

Here is a straightforward example. South deals himself this hand:

♠ A Q 10 8 6
♡ A Q 9 4 2
◇ K J 2
♣ —

The bidding starts as follows:

West	North	East	South
			1 Heart
2 Diamonds	2 Spades	No	?

What should South bid? First of all, he should recognize that this "share" is unlikely to receive an increased dividend or scrip issue. There are two reasons for caution: the void in his partner's suit and the knowledge that the diamonds are lying badly. The only sensible rebid is two no trumps. Even if North continues with a display of strength, it would be most imprudent to cooperate. Retaining the same hand, let us imagine the bidding has begun more favourably.

West	North	East	South
			1 Heart
1 Spade	2 Clubs	No	?

Game is certain, and a slam a possibility. I would recommend three diamonds to ensure that the hand will be played in the best strain. It would be a mistake for South to cue bid his spade void, for that would normally confirm clubs as the trump suit.

This would be an even more exciting start:

West	North	East	South
			1 Heart
1 Spade	2 Diamonds	No	?

Now it is not only correct to make a *cue bid*, but a jump cue bid—*three spades*. The jump cue bid says, "I have a good fit for your suit, and promise that I have no losers in spades".

South's hand, with its 16 points and powerful 5-5-3-0 distribution, has in turn prompted pessimism, hope and optimism.

The next hand is an example of expert application of the same theme. (See diagram).

South's second bid was well chosen. If North's cue bid was the prelude to supporting spades, no harm would be done. If, as here, it was inviting an alternative contract, then it was *good judgment to introduce* his support for diamonds rather than exaggerate his poor heart stopper.

Rubber Bridge. North-South Game. Dealer East.

North: ♠ A K Q ♡ A ◇ J 10 9 8 7 ♣ A K 4 2
West: ♠ J 9 7 4 ♡ 2 ◇ Q 3 ♣ J 9 8 6 5 3
East: ♠ 3 2 ♡ K Q J 9 6 5 ◇ K 5 4 ♣ Q 7
South: ♠ 10 8 6 5 ♡ 10 8 7 4 3 ◇ A 6 2 ♣ 10

West	North	East	South
		1 Heart	No
No	Double	No	1 Spade
No	2 Hearts	No	3 Diamonds
No	4 Diamonds	No	5 Diamonds
No	No	No	

Opening lead ♡3

South's five diamonds showed the expert's recognition of a "good" bad hand, a giant pygmy. He appreciated that although he only had three diamonds, the hand would play well on cross ruff lines. Notice North's restraint. Many players would rebid an impatient four spades without bothering to investigate. Even if they found the probing two heart rebid they would almost certainly punish South's enterprise with an over-optimistic five diamonds on the next round.

South's brave bidding would have gone for naught without a demonstration of sound technique in the play. After winning the lead with the ♡A, South cashed dummy's ♣A. He ruffed the ♣2 with the ◇2 and returned to dummy with the ♠Q. He ruffed the ♣4 with the ◇6, cashed the ◇A and re-entered dummy with the ♠K. When he continued with the ◇J, the defence could make no more than two diamond tricks.

The sequence of declarer's play had to be precise. Normally when playing a cross ruff, it is sound technique to cash the high cards before ruffing. Here, if South cashes both the ♣A and ♣K, East can discard his second spade on the fourth round of clubs. Now, however, if South tries to re-enter dummy he runs into a deadly cross-ruff. South's play was dictated by the correct assumptions that West's lead of the ♡2 was a singleton and that East had at least two spades. If East had a singleton spade it would have been impossible to make the contract.

Jeremy Flint

The British Bridge League are holding trials to select the teams to represent Great Britain in the Open and Ladies series of the European Championships. *The trials begin at* 7.30 pm on Friday January 30 at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Sixteen pairs will compete in the Open and eight in the Ladies series.

هكذا من الأصل

Travel

A Walter Mitty paradise

The slogan first catches your eye as you step into the blanket humidity of Nassau airport—"It's better in the Bahamas", the posters declare unequivocally, and you hope they are right after the long haul from Heathrow. But it can take a while to discover which part of the Bahamas is best.

Nassau, for a start, has all the ingredients of pleasureland: magnificent hotels, gambling casinos, night clubs with extravagant floor shows, golf greens and discos stretch along wide, palm-lined boulevards, and beaches that understate the travel brochures. An ideal place for swingers (like the exuberant Americans shooting dice in a noisy marathon game in the hotel room next to mine).

American influence is total, from the dollar and repeated chants of "Have a good day" to flotillas of gleaming Cadillac cabs and brown-skinned bunny girls who stroll their long-legged sexless way through the hotel corridors during daytime like escapees from the night.

But Britain has not been left entirely behind, especially when you catch a glimpse of the colonial splendour of Government House where the Duke and Duchess of Windsor held court during the Second World War, or step into the gracious Graycliff Hotel, 200 years old and once the home of the British West Indies Regiment, where food and service deserve a whole row of stars (among our notables, both Lord Beaverbrook *and* the Beatles ate there). And Bahamians *do* drive on the left.

Hotels, like the Nassau Beach where we stayed, offer nearly everything, and there is the temptation to stay put all day on the private beach and dance or gamble the night away; effort is what is needed to go out and explore Nassau. You get around by taxi (only the adventurous bike it) but we were more fortunate than most as guests of British Airways and the Bahamas Tourist Office to have Ed as our guide, a man who seemed to know more about Nassau than Columbus who whirled us around in his white Cadillac.

First to Bay Street, the main thoroughfare, a curious mix of colonial and modern and full of elegant shops. It begins with a charming residence once used for slave auctions (look out later for the police station with its London blue lamp) and ends at the harbour where cruise ships disgorge their passengers into the hubbub of the straw market where hats are stitched colourfully while you wait and part of the fun is striking a bargain.

Ed takes us on to inspect a damp dungeon where the model of an ancient rum-runner is getting his comeuppance on the rack, then to climb dizzily down the Queen's staircase (Victoria) cut nearly vertically through a cliff, and on to the medieval cloisters the millionaire Huntington Hartford brought over from France and had rebuilt, piece by piece, on a gentle slope overlooking the sea. But the heat can shrink you, so you sample an iced Goombay Smash, all sweet rum and coconut milk and fruit juice that seems innocent enough until you try a second.

Lunch is mouth watering: shrimp filled avocado or conch chowder, then grouper fish or sliced beef and crisp salad (for breakfast they add orange slices and crab apple to eggs and bacon).

Nights in Nassau are cooler, but the temperature leaps at the Palace disco where Bahamians dance to the Goombay beat and the noise is at enough decibels to keep your ears ringing for another day. All too much? Then drive across the bridge to Paradise Island (listening solemnly on the way to radio announcements of the recently dead) to a lavish cabaret—gyrating girls and galloping horses on stage—that goes on past midnight, or into a cavernous gaming room, all spotlights, nearly indecently dressed waitresses and croupiers with puppet-like movements to snatch away your losses.

There is time for — —— drink, a glass of Jaws, perhaps—an alcoholic bite of rum, fruit juice, something unpronounceable and, I swear, Carnation milk, all fruthed up in a tall glass, that sends you tingling back to your room where the game next door is hotting up; they're yelling for more scotch.

Time is running out, and after three hectic days and nights in Nassau you need relaxation like a new head, and you find it in the lush Out Islands, the sort of places a Walter Mitty would dream about while freezing at the bus stop. There are Cat Island and Crooked Island and Great Ragged Island, and hosts more, all beautiful and mainly unspoilt. It took 35 minutes to fly to Treasure Cay on Abaco Island where you might once have expected to find millionaires at play. Not so now, but it does help to be friendly with your bank manager.

Here the sun warms three miles of perfect white sand and an emerald sea and you can laze or swim or sail all day in idyllic tranquillity. Accommodation is at the hotel or private bungalow without a phone to interrupt the lotus life. The energetic bicycle from bungalow to beach, but in this hedonistic setting it's more relaxing by electric buggy.

The lean and tanned stroll on to the beach carrying ice buckets for an early cooling drink; they lunch beneath a palm tree or munch truly tasty hamburgers at the beach bar, then snorkel among the coral reefs (lessons provided) or gently sail across to that little island over there called Green Turtle, where loyalists to poor King George fled after the American War of Independence went the wrong way. The only real energy expended is in deciding what lazy pursuit to get up to tomorrow.

Treasure Cay becomes a treasure indeed, especially when you have to leave and the more fortunate are golfing in their gaudy Bermudas. You wonder how the game is going back at the hotel in Nassau, and then see the farewell sign—"Haste ye back", it says, as if you wouldn't want to. It was better for me in *that* Bahamas.

Details: British Airways fly Tristar four times weekly to Nassau. Fares, Apex £371, excursion £480.50, economy £735. Sovereign holidays from £475 for 14 nights with b&b to £890 for half board at Nassau Beach Hotel. Speedbird holidays from £395 for two weeks self-catering at Coral Harbour beach villas to £610 for two weeks b&b at Nassau Beach. Further information from British Airways Travel Shops. Details of Out Islands from Bahamas Tourist Board.

Derek Darby



The Graycliff Hotel, Nassau: stars galore.

Gardening

A hardy annual question

I have referred to the increasing trend towards "convenience" gardening before—I mean buying flower plants in boxes or pots for bedding out, for tubs, window boxes or hanging baskets and vegetable plants. But I had no idea of the volume of sales involved.

I am told that last year it was estimated that 10 million boxes of flower seedling plants were sold in garden centres plus an unknown quantity of geraniums and other plants in pots and of course millions of tomato, aubergine, marrow, cucumber, and pepper plants in pots.

Perhaps as the cost of heating greenhouses continues to rise more people will cease raising their own bedding plants from seed and buy plants from the garden centres. Whether they will find this economic will of course depend on how many plants they buy, compared with the cost of growing their own.

If costs are a serious factor and it is found necessary to cut down on raising or buying bedding plants, the alternatives as far as flowers are concerned are to plant perennials or go back to sowing hardy annuals as many of us and our fathers before us did when we had no greenhouse and not enough money to pay £1 or more for a geranium or up to £2 for a box of petunias.

Hardy annuals I will discuss later; today I would like to mention a few of the new and recently introduced flower seeds. I would be less than gallant and failing to recognize a very important achievement by Unwins if I did not mention the sweet pea they named after my wife "Frances Perry". It is a nicely scented variety in a new colour, and is the first pure rich salmon sweet pea to be sunproof—it does not burn in hot sun. Charles Unwin told me it has taken him 25 years to produce this variety.

This firm has specialized in sweet peas for very many years and produced many fine varieties. One of their novelties that impressed me last year was "Blue Danube", a splendid deep mid-blue variety. Last year we grew the very dwarf sweet pea, "Snoopea" from Thompson & Morgan.

We were disappointed with it in tubs—for some reason it did not perform well but plants set in odd gaps in paving grew well and flowered all summer. One can use the flowers for cutting but if we really wish to have lavish bowls of sweet peas we still have to grow a row of the standard varieties up canes, net or pea sticks.

Men, I think, tend to go for strong, bold colours in plants generally and in sweet peas I have always grown, say half a dozen, separate colours—rich reds, carmine, deep rose, maroon, rich blue and purple.

Always visitors have exclaimed their admiration for these powerful colours when arranged in a large bowl. And here, I would put in a personal thought—if you are going to have a bowl of sweet peas, for goodness sake have a big bowl and nothing else in it to distract from the beauty of the sweet peas.

Moving to other flowers, the seedsmen are still wedded to the idea that small is beautiful, that gardens are now small and therefore we must have small plants. As I have often said I am not convinced by this argument.

At Unwins trial ground last August, on good rich loamy soil—so sticky on the day of our visit after a night's rain that it clung to our boots in inch thick dollops, manured every three years and watered whenever necessary, many dwarf plants looked very nice But the sunflowers were 9 feet high and everything else pro rata. So I wonder how would these dwarf plants perform on ordinary rather hungry garden soils not generously fed and regularly watered.

However, if you want small plants and small flowers there are plenty of newcomers. Thompson & Morgan devote the front cover of their catalogue to a tiny tot picking a flower of their new marigold "Teeny Weeny" said to be extremely floriferous, very dwarf with red and yellow flowers. Dobies offer a more orthodox novelty—their "Centenary" strain of "super giant crested" marigolds with crested flowers, 2 inches across in shades and combinations of yellow, red and orange on plants about 10 inches high. Very good for bedding and ground cover.

Still pursuing the miniature cult Dobies are enthusing over their miniature pansy "Baby Lucia" with blue flowers and a yellow eye. For me, the new FI pansies of which there are now a dozen or more to choose from are splendid plants. They are offered in self colours or in mixture and most of them flower gently in the winter and almost all through the summer.

The old black-eyed Susan *Thunbergia alata* has always been a favourite of mine; grown round a wigwam of sticks in a pot in a greenhouse or sun room or in a hanging basket it is attractive for many weeks with its orange black-eyed flowers. So I wonder how we will like the new variety 'Angel Wings' which has white flowers with a yellow eye and which Dobies claim are over two and a quarter inches across, about twice the diameter of the ordinary *T. alata*. It might be fun to grow the two together.

Several firms have decided to give the good old salpiglossis a turn in the limelight with some new and, they claim, improved strains. They are lovely plants with flowers that alway remind me of stained glass windows. They are excellent plants for a cool greenhouse, or for planting out when danger of frost is past. My father used to grow a thousand or two in his greenhouses in the middle of Hyde Park to bed out. After one disastrous foggy winter when he lost the lot, he had them covered with newspapers whenever a fog threatened and never lost a plant.

Today with London a smokeless zone and pea soup fogs a thing of the past this precaution would not be necessary. But in any town where sulphurous fogs are still a possibility remember the newspaper trick—not only for salpiglossis but for any other plants that may not like fogs.

Returning to the question of buying plants from garden centres, it is interesting to note that the leading seedsmen are now organized to send packs of young plants of geraniums, cyclamen, begonias and cinerarias ready for potting. These plants come so well packed that they even survive most often the handling they get by the post office.

This service is obviously intended to help those who live far from nurseries or garden centres. But of course, one must have a greenhouse, sun room, conservatory or adequate windowsill space in which to grow these young plants on.

Suttons not only offer young plants of begonias, geraniums and cyclamen but "chitted" seeds—seed already germinated and ready to be sown, of cucumbers and the Swiss cheese plant *Monstera deliciosa.*

Roy Hay

Travel extra

Bulgarian landscape, with stork

The train stood in the Dimitrovgrad border station for nearly three hours, waiting for an engine to come up from Dragoman in Bulgaria to continue the journey through to Istanbul. The journey had begun at Belgrade and some of us were disembarking from the packed train at Sofia, the Bulgarian capital.

Meanwhile the train waited, and as the afternoon wore on the heat became intense. At times it felt as if the carriages were being hosed down by oxy-acetylene welders. Passengers scrambled down on to the platform and queued in front of the solitary fountain, an ancient and miserable source of refreshment which had to be kicked frequently to be reminded of its function.

There was a white uniformed official, complete with peaked cap, and remarkably Titoesque in bearing, who made languid attempts to keep order, but efforts at controlling the passengers jumping in and out of the carriages was about as effective as that over the chickens, who roamed freely over the track, pecking at the rich and clearly spreading patches of weeds.

After several false alarms and the slamming of doors, the train eventually set off, the scene rent by a triumphant whistle. Train travel may not always be the most comfortable, but it does have its moments. It was after miles of journeying through the Bulgarian countryside that I was stirred by the first excitement, my first sight of a stork: there were two of them, squatting on poles, and then rising into the air, disturbed by the train, the slow beat of their huge wings lazily but purposefully taking them out of sight.

Thousands of British tourists visit Bulgaria each year, but I doubt whether they see the best of it. Admittedly the main attraction is the resorts on the 230-mile long coast along the Black Sea because the holidays are cheap and the beaches excellent, but there is a lot worth seeing inland.

Make Sofia, lying underneath the broad-backed Vitosha Mountain, your base; hotels are classified as de luxe, second class and third class, but you won't want to spend all your time in the capital. Visit the magnificent Rila Monastery rebuilt in the fourteenth century in the mountains south of Sofia, and also take a car journey to the south east along a six-lane highway which heads into the Thracian Plain.

The plain, rich with wheatfields, vineyards and orchards, stretches between the Rhodope mountains to the south and the gentle, conical hills of the Sredna Gora to the north. The road itself will eventually bring you to Bulgaria's second largest city, Plovdiv, and one of its greatest attractions. Situated on several hills ranged along the River Maritsa, the old part of the city is full of interest, narrow cobbled streets and courtyards, museums tracing its 5,000-year-old history, and a thriving centre for traditional Bulgarian craftware.

Another road out of Sofia, heading east, runs between the Balkan Range and the other side of the Sredna Gora and heads into the famous Valley of the Roses. If it is the roses you want to see, however, make the trip in May or early June, which is when they are harvested. It takes three tons of rose petals to make one litre of rose oil.

While in the area make for Gabrova and Veliko Turnovo, the road winding through attractive ravines and also passing the Dryanova Monastery, the scene of one of the most famous battles with the Turks in the last century. Veliko Turnovo is itself well worth a visit, the town spilling down a hillside, before doubling back to the capital.

If you don't have your own car, Balkantourist, who have offices at 126-130 Regent Street, London, will organize a tour, the range of trips varying from three days to a week. Cars can be hired in the capital and credit cards are accepted.

Michael Hatfield

Collecting

Queen Anne sat here

Because antique collecting is a highly individual pastime there is unlikely to be general agreement on when the so-called "golden age of English furniture" existed. However, because the outstanding name in English furniture is Chippendale, whose influence hangs heavy over the middle of the eighteenth century, there is a danger that those unfamiliar with the subject will automatically equate the two. Although Chippendale was a practical cabinet maker and ran a large workshop his fame rests more on his publishing activities.

I would suggest that the accolade more properly belongs some 40 years earlier at the start of the century when a group of largely anonymous craftsmen used walnut to produce furniture universally known as Queen Anne, although they outlived that monarch. To concentrate the argument within the scope of one article it makes sense to consider not the top quality pieces which were by definition unrepresentative but the run of the mill pieces that we can still see, if not afford, today. Chairs are both common and useful, so let us take a canter through the broad development of the English chair and see on what basis the Queen Anne stands out from its rivals.

Glorious though the seventeenth century joined or wainscot chair can be, one would have to be a very single minded oak collector to maintain that a bolt upright rectangular structure of rails pinned together to support panels could possibly be described as the ultimate in elegance and use—charm yes, patination yes, but little else. The Great Fire of London, that unique marketing opportunity which occurred in 1666 and for which the modern furniture industry would doubtless give its eye teeth, destroyed, without loss of life, nearly all furniture in by far the richest community in the country.

Yet the newer designs resulted only in the increase of turning and the substitution of leather for panels; true the design was lighter but whether bobbin or spirally turned it was still basically square. Even when high backs and canework became the fashion in the 1690s the chairs were, for all their ornamentation, still rectangular and the design lacked any cohesive quality. The top rail was obviously a separate member and the front rail with its baroque excess of ornamentation stood out. *Moreover the chairs were frail* and those which still survive are not fit for general use; a convivial dinner party can wreak havoc on them.

At the close of the seventeenth century a Frenchman, Daniel Marot, who had worked for William of Orange (later William III), produced designs for chairs which radically altered the thinking of British craftsmen. In the illustration on the left you can see the first moves towards the Queen Anne chair, the earliest form of cabriole leg, the break in the curve of the outline of the back and the shaped splat joined into the seat. It is still stiff, upright and unstable and has all the baroque obsession of changes in direction. Notice too that it is decorated where it makes an impact, above the table. But the development is *clear to see, as it is in* other, presumably later, examples which show the splat contracting into the familiar thin vase-shaped outline and the carved and pierced decoration becoming less exuberant.

The example on the right that dates from about 1710 is the English version. Stripped of the Dutch exuberances it is an early, slightly clumsy version with the typically high knees to the cabrioles which shows their relationship to the previous examples.

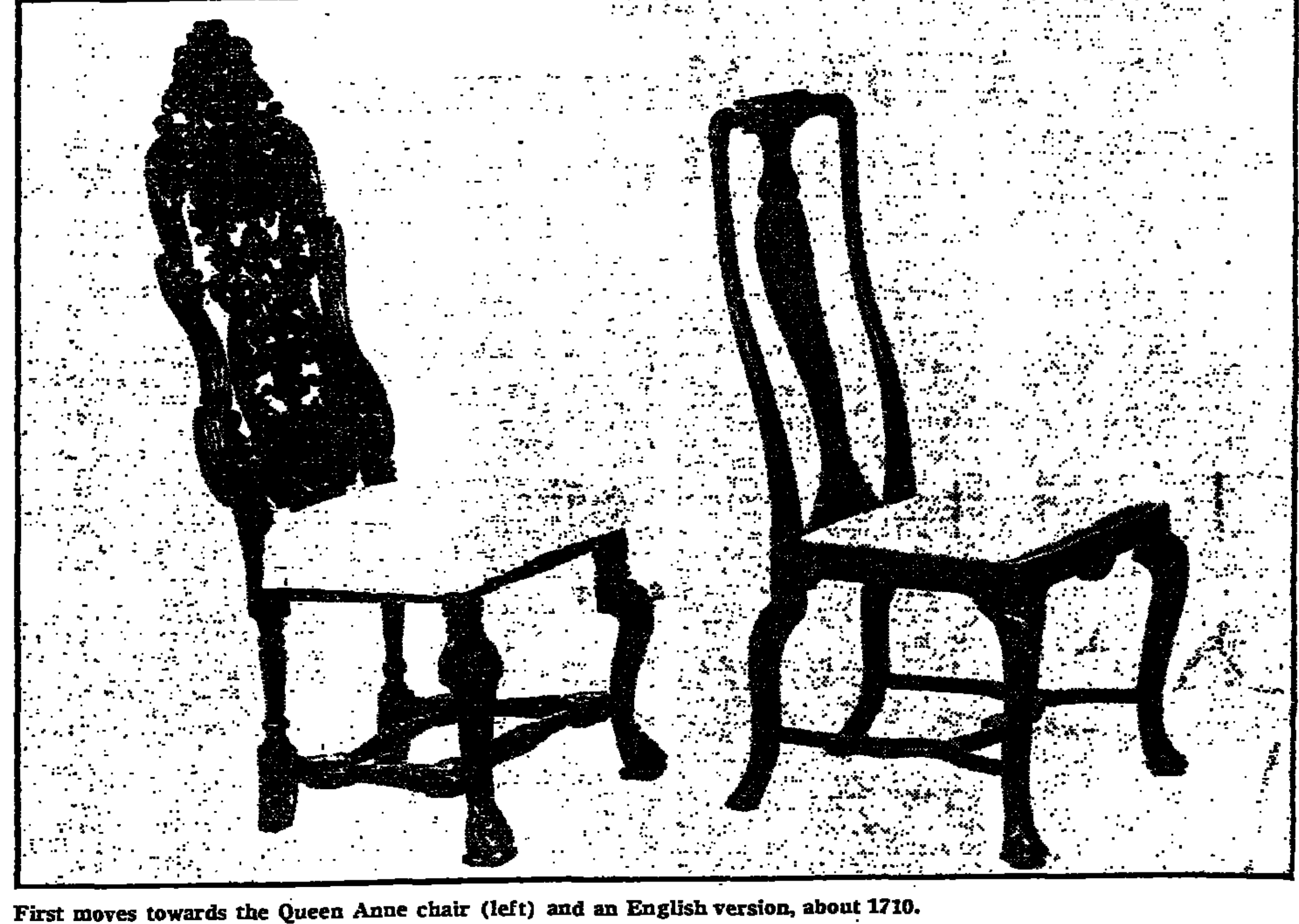
The carbrioles themselves hark back to the earlier type for they come too far forward in the pads, the one in the foreground particularly looking like those of an old spaniel turning up at the toes. Nevertheless it has many points of interest shared with the better, slightly later and more accomplished examples. *First*, the high curved vase-shaped back or original "bended back", which fits the human spine excellently. The lower portion of the splat, which thrusts forward, supports the lumbar *region while the arrangement* of the top accommodates the shoulders, and to ensure comfort the sides of the back are carefully rounded—a feature that did not return for 140 years when the Victorian balloon back emerged. (Interestingly on television not long ago a distinguished academic ergonomist displayed the results of his labours towards the perfect chair; in fact he had rediscovered the wheel for he had merely produced an ugly version of this chair.)

The practically minded will appreciate that it is a difficult chair to make, the cabriole legs especially, for any working marks one makes are cut away in the course of construction and to get the back at just the right curve demands a good eye. The balance, too, is good; it does not tip over backwards easily. It is extremely well made, mortise and tenons are used though not always pegged—a return to traditional oak methods after the flimsy failures of the tall back Dutch chairs a decade or so earlier.

The chair was expensive in materials, too. The back is one piece of walnut, so even if one made several at one time out of a large plank—not too common with walnut—the waste of this valuable wood was considerable. Close examination would reveal other points of quality. The splat is bevelled at the edge so that it gives a thin clear edge from the most forward angle of view and the grain on the two front legs normally matches. Once the eye becomes attuned to the wide divergence of qualities several can make a fascinating grouping round a table.

Gradually over a period of 20 years design changed and moved towards the stiffer and squarer design we associate with Chippendale. The change was *slow and given enough* examples one can see the decline.

It was of course a matter of fashion—what one generation likes the next almost by definition, disregards as unacceptable. However, seen in modern terms the move towards the mid-eighteenth century designs looks like a classic marketing and profit improvement exercise. Subject to a rigorous cost analysis the Queen Anne chair is made square and cut down in size to save timber. The lack of curve saves labour, as does the substitution of square chamfered legs for cabrioles. The shortfall in comfort and line is compensated for by cheap fretted splats and the odd carved motif. The great authority, R. W. Symonds, in his classic *English Furniture from Charles II to George II*, a work yet to be surpassed, is clearly in sympathy with this view. Discussing the much prized Chippendale ribbon backs he says, "A bow of wooden ribbons may actually support a person's back but it is an artistic heresy to fashion a silk ribbon in wood and make it fulfil a structural purpose which, in the material it imitates it could never do . . ."



First moves towards the Queen Anne chair (left) and an English version, about 1710.

Hepplewhite, and later Sheraton and the other neo-classical designers, made some beautifully balanced chairs, but not at the run of the mill level; there, if anything, they are worse than Chippendale. Smaller, squatter and even less generous, they finally evolve into the relative comfort of the Regency dining chair which makes no pretence at anything more than prosperous solidity. In fact, if there is a rival for the Golden Age it is more likely to come from the rococo chairs—the balloon backs—of the early Victorian period which do at least look well.

A fascinating aspect of the lack of recognition of "Queen Anne" walnut chairs is that until the last year or so single chairs could be bought in the £150-£200 range quite easily. Now the price has risen to £250-£400 while anything of quality can cost a great deal more. Indeed, a fine pair was sold at Christie's last autumn for £19,800, but then they had an excellent provenance, an important but extraneous element in pricing.

Do not despair. Although they have been exported in their hundreds to the United States, where they naturalize as *Philadelphian*, they can still occasionally be found at £100-£150 in country sales, heavily bleached or covered in French polish. They are well worth the effort to *clean and cherish*, for even the humblest has a touch of quality from that Golden Age.

John Steel

The author is editorial director and co-founder of the Antique Collectors' Club.

Chess

Auto-mating

The spate of computerized chess-playing machines now coming on the market in America and Europe is a direct result of active research over the past 30 years, but their origins lie even further back.

In 1942 the late Alan Turing expressed an interest in that subject to me and a year or so after the war ended I believe he *did in fact construct such* a machine in collaboration with my good friend Donald Michie, who is happily still with us and for some years has been professor in charge of machine unit research at Edinburgh University.

However, *great mathematical* genius though Turing was, his chess was weak and I understand that his chess machine was rudimentary.

Great advances have been made since then and the former world champion, Mikhail Botwinnik, *has said it will not* be long before the chess computer attains master strength. I am sceptical about this, because if we can make the chess computer think originally, off its own bat as it were, then we can make all computers do likewise and I can sit back in my armchair watching the computer compose this article. (I spurn any ignoble suggestion that this is virtually what I do now.)

A year or so ago a colleague brought back a chess-playing machine from America. I tested it for a couple of weeks and found that while definite advances had been made it was not of sufficient calibre to win against a first class amateur, let alone a master player.

Psychologically it was a dangerous experiment. I began to have delusions of grandeur, imagining myself to be the equal, at least, of Alekhine and Capablanca or of Fischer and Karpov. But after handing back the machine it soon became clear that no such parity existed.

That machine was a silent one. Recently I examined a vocal chess-playing machine and was astonished, almost alarmed, at the great progress that has been made during the past year.

Press one button and it reveals its intentions. Press another and you make it reply faster. If it loses it says so in sepulchral tones.

There is a big new section called Book Openings from which you can choose the opening or defence you want *to play. This section is endowed* with the latest opening lines.

Another interesting section consists of 64 great games selected from the play of world champions. You are given the names of the players, the opening and other information such as where the game was played. Then you are allowed two tries at guessing the moves and are given them if you fail to guess correctly, with marks awarded in accordance with your success.

The classes of play range from beginner to expert and it *will certainly be* a boon to all those who cannot find a regular over-the-board opponent.

It is by no means perfect, which is perhaps just as well. Like all machines of its kind it lays too much emphasis on the value and power of a capture. It tends to go astray against the more sophisticated type of opening. Most irritatingly of all, it takes too long over moves in the higher classes, even though it may be dead lost. I had one game, for example, that lasted for more than seven hours and the machine was quite lost for the last three.

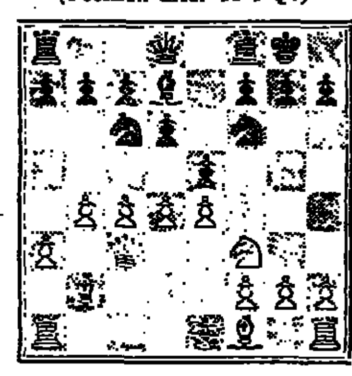
Still, I must absolve it from any charge of chicanery. It is an honest opponent, unlike another type of machine that a friend possesses which has the engaging habit of offering a draw in a lost position.

As an example of the sort of chess one gets with the machine I give a game I won against it when it was in one of the higher classes, Class 8, which was supposed to be excellent and should have taken an average of six minutes a move. I should perhaps explain that the machine has two internal clocks that measure the time taken by both machine and its opponent. Press a button and you can find out what these times are.

White: H.G. Black: Machine. English Opening.

1	P-QB4	N-KB3	6	QxB	P-Q3
2	N-KB3	P-K3	7	P-QN4	B-Q2
3	N-B3	B-N5	8	B-N2	O-O
4	Q-N3	N-B3	9	P-K4	P-K4
5	P-QR3	BxN	10	P-Q4	

(Position after 10 P-Q4)



10 . . PxP

A critical point in the game has been reached. After 10 . . . NxKP; I intended playing 11 Q-B2, P-B4; 12 PxP, PxP; 13 O-O-O, Q-K2; 14 P-KN4, N-Q3; 15 P-B5, with entertaining complications; but clearly many other variations are possible here.

11	NxP	R-K1	13	QxN	Q-K2
12	P-B3	NxN	14	B-K2	P-QR3

He, or rather it, wants to centralize its QR without having to worry about his QRP.

15	O-O	QR-Q1	16	QR-B1	Q-K4

Exchanging down to an inferior endgame; but against other moves I intended playing P-N4.

17	QxQ	PxQ	18	KR-Q1	R-K3 ?

A bad move; but it is difficult to find a good one here; perhaps K-B1 is best.

19	B-B1	P-B3	21	R(B1)-Q1	R(K3)-K2
20	R-Q2	QR-K1	22	P-QR4	

Now that White has gained control of the Q file he threatens Black with a breakthrough on the wing.

22	. . .	R(K1)-Q1	25	BPxP	R-R1
23	P-N5	P-B4	26	B-R3	RxP
24	R-Q6	RPxP	27	BxP	

Threatening RxN and forcing the win of material however Black plays.

27	. . .	B-K3	29	RxR ch	NxR
28	R-Q8 ch	R-K1	30	R-Q8	P-KN3

Here it looked at first R-R7, then B-Q2, P-R3 and P-B4 and then back to P-R3 and P-KN3. It spent 29 minutes 44 seconds on this hopeless procedure and staggered on for another 10 moves before I mated it.

Harry Golombek

Good Food Guide

Whiggish pleasures

Before Christmas (6.12.80) attention was drawn in this column to a few new or at least unfamiliar restaurants in the suburbs south of the Thames. London is so large and within its own sprawling borders regionally conscious that everyone travelling to another point of its compass is apt to feel like Dr Livingstone or Captain Cook, if he consents to make the journey at all. So to forestall resentment, this article goes north, either within or just beyond a statutory taxi distance from Charing Cross.

It is natural, at least in terms of London's gastronomy, to begin in Islington, which in a century or two has gone full circle from outlying country village through inner-city slum to an inverted-comma "village" whose inhabitants choose their desirable canal-side residences in preference to others they might enjoy further out by the banks of the *Ouse* or the *Grand Union*. There are at least a couple of Islington restaurants in the current *Good Food Guide* that draw their customers from far outside the district, and Louis Segal's Frederick's is perhaps forever doomed to being Camden Passage's second string.

But on that basis, there is much to be said for this airily luxuriant and pictorially Hanoverian memorial to the royal but democratic Victorian Duke Frederick, whose Whiggish opinions inclined him to the pastimes of singing, gardening, and the collection of bibles, clocks and humming-birds.

Jean-Louis Pollet is the current chef, and his pheasant pâté, deep-fried mushrooms, fruits de mer à l'armoricaine, pepper steaks, and lamb chops with dill sauce have all given pleasure—though he needs to be more rigorous about serving hot food hot. Besides, fair prices are charged for good claret, and final bills seem reasonable—after all, nothing keeps a restaurant's prices down like the existence of an expensive, admittedly superior competitor a few doors away.

Both Frederick's and Carrier's initially contributed their mites or acolytes to the formation of Alain and Joyce Bessemoulin's Four Seasons in Barnsbury. The cooking has been variously praised and reproved during the year—the couple seem to have a poor judgment of what can wisely be cooked and served in a confined space, with the kitchen not enclosed. All the meals described by experienced *Guide* inspectors have included something excellent: moules au beurre de Provence (£2.25) on one occasion, dark-pink magret de canard with a nutty madeira sauce on another—and "the lemon syllabub for once tasted balanced, and could eas*ily have been Elizabeth David's* recipe".

In Capability Brown, too, since Ann Tebboth's founder-chef Lawrence Elbert left, quality control has been the problem — understandably enough, given the length and ambition of the menu which David Smart (also a graduate of the Connaught Hotel kitchens) is offering in this verdant green ground-floor-and basement restaurant on the margins of Hampstead.

As in so many places—in France as well as Britain—that take the nouvelle cuisine style seriously, verdicts may depend on whether you are temperamentally inclined to be impressed by high achievement or dismayed by near-misses, or vice versa.

Happily, the past year's reports to the *Guide* have celebrated more of the former than of the latter. "How Mr Smart manages to make such a light dish out of scampi stuffed with crab, breadcrumbed and fried, with a rich wine sauce, I'll never know, but I pray he keeps on doing it." "The gamey core of the feuilleté of grouse with blackcurrants add real zing to the taste of both the main flavours." Fish and vegetables are alike well cooked, signally good bread and French soft cheeses are offered and "if expense is an object skip the sweet and rely on the petits fours with coffee". (In the same connexion, Rioja Majestad '70 was in 1980 much the best-value red wine—£6.85—on an indifferent, otherwise dear list.)

The market place in Hamp*stead Garden Suburb is not the* most inviting locale for a restaurant, with the container lorries thundering by, and the black rabbinical caps worn by so many pedestrians on a Saturday morning in this part of London also sort oddly with the deliciously *porcine* preoccupations of Italian cooking, at least round Bologna. But at Le Palme, Messrs Cimenti and Conti have cemented their clientele and counted their profits to good effect in the past year or two, and their jovial but graceful manner, combined with good settings and sufficient space makes their restaurant a useful one for family celebrations, whether they begin with Parma ham or zucchini fritti.

At a test meal, tagliatelle Alfredo (£1.10) and that homely Italian dish rosticciata (£3.75) were well cooked, and others vouch for the hors d'oeuvre, scaloppine con carciofini, and profiteroles. The house Straccali wines are modestly priced and very suitable for the context; the coffee, for once, is "*better than* anyone could fairly have expected: my table neighbour, dining alone, saw the bottom of two large cafetières."

Further out still—and it may not prove so easy to persuade a taxi driver to deliver you to East Barnet Road—there is to be found the youngest of London's half-dozen (at most) Portuguese restaurants, Cabana do Pescador, New Barnet. By common consent the cock of this tiny brood is the Fogareiro (in the *Guide*), which is not so many miles away in Hendon. But Alberto Cancio has chosen a district which has little serious competition in any national-style, and deserves to do well, say early visitors who have found his welcome civilized and his kitchen's style authentic.

Frederick's, Camden Passage, N1. Tel 01-359 2888. Closed Sunday. Meals 12.30-2.30, 7.30-11.30. Table d'hôte Saturday lunch £4.95. A la carte meal with wine about £12.50.

Four Seasons, 69, Barnsbury Street, N1. Tel 01-607 0857. Closed Sunday and Monday dinner; Saturday lunch. Meals 12.30-2.30 (noon-2.30 Sunday), 7-11. A la carte meal with wine about £15.

Capability Brown, 351, West End Lane, NW6. Tel 01-794 3234. Closed lunch; Sunday; 2 weeks September. Must book. Dinner 7-11.30. A la carte dinner with wine about £16.25.

Le Palme, 46, Market Place, NW11. Tel 01-458 7305 and 8170. Closed Monday. Must book dinner and at weekends. Meals 12-2.30, 6.30-11.15. Table d'hôte lunch and dinner from £8. A la carte meal with wine about £10.

Cabana do Pescador, 182 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire. Tel 01-440 2696. Closed lunch; Monday. Must book at weekends. Dinner 6.30-10.30 (11 Friday and Saturday). A la carte meal with wine about £10.25.

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Alice in wonderment

Lewis Carroll was obviously a twentieth-century artist locked in a previous century scarcely of his making and, except through the discipline of mathematics, scarcely of his understanding. His Alice books were written yesterday and will be as sustaining the dayafter tomorrow. This questionable academic, searching for his Lolita with his transcendentally chaste camera, was clearly a man born out of synchronization. Life was destined not to hear him, except in an almost indecent minor key.

His brain was totally before its time and out of space. He wrote Freudian before Freud had ever thought of it, and he was Dadaist before Tristan Tzara had ever been born. And at times his literary style—think of the poem *jabberwocky*—preceded the linguistic experiments of James Joyce in *Finnegan's Wake*.

Why am I telling you this? Because Elizabeth Swados's new dramatized cantata, *Alice in Concert*, now at Joseph Papp's public theatre, made me think of Carroll very deeply. We have here a spirit extended, and a spirit explained. Well, not quite explained. *While* Swados magnificently catches most of Carroll's divine nuttiness, she does not quite make it to the end.

The approach to Alice, in theatrical terms, is everything. So many people, in plays, films *and ballet, have tried to thea*tricalize Carroll, usually with only middling success. Where most of them fail is in catching Carroll's desultory and wonderful cosmic humour. A decade or so ago Andre Gregory and his Manhattan project precisely caught the wild craziness of Alice, and here, in her musical version, Swados once more picks up the master's logical philosophy of illogic. Everything must be quaint. Nothing can seem to be what it seems. It is the unblinking genius of the young. Martha Graham *said* we are all born with the spark of genius, but almost all of us lose it as we grow up. Carroll did not.

Miss Swados, in what is surely her best musical to date, throws Alice on to the stage *like* a lost but inimitably cheerful doll. She wanders through her dream world, sometimes down the black holes of space, sometimes through the looking-glass of her own perception. Miss Swados perceives Alice as a *little girl adapting to the am*biguous enormities of life; with a good humour that Carroll might have wished upon himself.

The first part of *Alice in Concert* is sublime; the second is also sublime but not, if grammarians will allow me to qualify a definitive, as sublime as the first. In the first part Swados is dealing with fun and irony and her music takes on a special jokey jauntiness—and it is absolutely thrilling, ending with a marvellously contrived lobster quadrille flowing out into the almost psychedelic first act finale, eating mushrooms.

The second part becomes a trifle, a dangerous trifle, more sentimental. The summer glow has faded and Miss Swados strikes, too often, a calculated lyrical note. But the whole thing is essentially a wonderment.

The frabjous success is not simply Swados' alone. The team of actors, under Joe Papp's own direction, are sensational. Despite this the work had dif*ficult gestation*. André Serban directed an earlier version and started this revision until replaced by Papp himself. Where Serban ended and Papp started is anyone's guess, but it works out as a seamless pleasure.

This is precisely the kind of cast one *would like—were* one not a drama critic—to pick up at the stage door and take to a party. They are adorable without any nit-picking reservations. They are so good that to name any single one of them would be discriminatory, and therefore possibly illegal. However, one can scarcely fail to mention, certainly not to ignore, Meryl Streep, playing Alice with such unaffected brilliance that although a peer among peers, you would have to elect her queen. Her lopsided and offsided remarks, her radiance, her vocal range, her genius for being rather than playing at one moment, and then playing rather than being at the next, are extraordinary.

Streep and Swados, totally helped here by wonderful *actors* and *musicians* alike, make this Alice into the kind of magic dream that you will really enjoy. It has mystery, sex and fun—when last were you offered that combination?

Papp and his Shakespeareans are having a great time this year. His marvellous production of the Gilbert and Sullivan *Pirates of Penzance*, first given in Central Park and reviewed last summer, has now arrived with expected success on Broadway. The cast, Kevin Kline, Linda Ronstadt, Rex Smith, Estelle Parsons and George Rose, is the same, except that Estelle Parsons replaces the unavailable Patricia Routledge.

In a sense this Broadway version is so different in attitude, if not in spirit, from Sullivan's operetta that it seems almost cheeky that they have taken its name. The musical should simply be called *Pirates!*, if only to explain the various ambiguities of time and approach that the production utilizes in its transformation from a cult operetta into *a Broadway hit*.

A special air of freshness informs the entire production. The masterminds are obviously the director, Wilford Leach, and William Elliott, who has adapted the music and conducts the score. What they have done—and it is miraculous—is to place, between ourselves and the work, that distance which, in the theatre, often lends enchantment. Elliott's score is delightful—it catches the spirit of Sullivan and bubbles with it.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, at six years of age a toddler among dance companies, is in splendid form. It opened its winter season at the City Center with a gala performance that included Geoffrey Holder's *Bele*, George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco* and ended with a new production of Michael Folkine's *Scheherazade*.

Bele, with choreography, music and costumes all by Holder himself, was a Creole court ritual, full of bounce, *flounce and merriment*. This was the kind of thing that the Katherine Graham company would do occasionally, and its mixture of folk and classic ballet is here, once more, most beguiling.

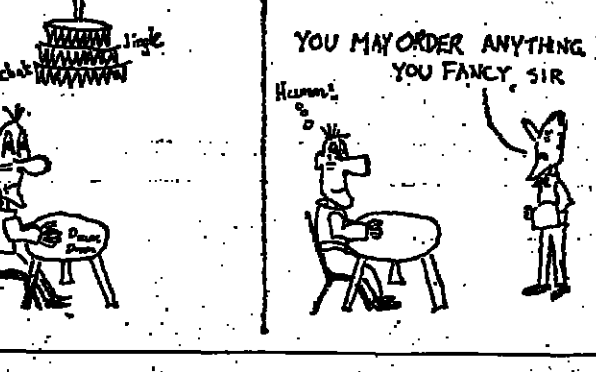
Concerto Barocco was for long something of a signature piece for the Harlem dancers, but whereas they once danced it well, they now dance it splendidly.

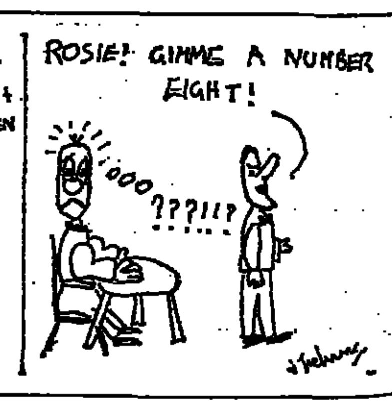
On the face of it the company's production of *Scheherazade* seemed surprising—if only because part of its initial frisson back in 1910 was supposed to be the spectacle of white harem ladies being illicitly and lustfully loved by supposed negro slaves. Just the kind of subject that might give the all-black company a certain credibility problem.

The London Festival Ballet has *Scheherazade* in its performing repertory since 1950, and it is possibly more accurate than the one staged here for Harlem by the great Ballet Russe dancer, Frederic Franklin. However, Franklin *has* managed to make a *virtue* out of that and to provide it with a great deal more creative drive and vigour. I do not like some of the particularly spectacular *jumps given* to the golden slave, but they are certainly appropriate.

Virginia Johnson made a voluptuously imperious Zobeide, while Eddie Shellman was all sinuous flow as her secret lover, the *golden* slave. It was also a special gala pleasure to have Franklin himself, bumbling so nicely as the treacherous and avaricious chief eunoch. It made a great start to the season.

Small Times competition results





Cartoon competition

This posed big problems for *Small Times* judges because of the enthusiasm and ingenuity shown by our readers. The winning entry (printed above) was sent in by Joanne Treharne (aged 11) of Bristol and she will receive a £20 book token.

The judges also felt that the following six entries deserved a special mention:

Jon by Sophie Coutouvidis (aged 6)
For Those at Sea by Edward Usick (aged 11)
Magic Show by Geeta Narlikar (aged 10)
Sausage Man by Paul Mason (aged 11)
Apple Wars by Malcolm Smith (aged 10)
For the Birds by Martin Weston Jnr (aged 14)
David Perry (aged 7) untitled

Great Uncle Septimus

Hugo Daleworthy would publicly like to thank all those readers who so generously helped him to discover the secret of his late great-uncle's will. The response was overwhelming. He is sorry that he cannot reply to all your letters personally, but he is at present in the Bahamas. On his return he intends to take a course in private detection.

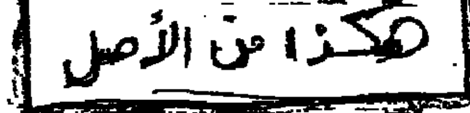
However, Ivan Johnson (aged 14) will receive an Entex electronic game as his correct solution was the first to be pulled out of the sack on January 6th.

For those who are still baffled by great-uncle Septimus's puzzle, here are the answers:

Clue A = bonfire
Clue B = cabbage
Clue C = Mr Dix
Clue D = sundial
Clue E = draw straight lines to link white dots in clues A and D, and in clues B and C. Where lines cross is the prize square.
Answer: F4

Christmas carol competition

This demanded lots of creative talent and we were impressed with your enterprize. Two carols, although very different, share first prize and three album tokens will be sent to Helen Cruickshank and Alison Brydon (aged 13) from Edinburgh for "Sing" and to Bryony Dean (aged 13) from Surrey for "Salutation".



TAKING YOUR CAR ABROAD

A record total of 580,000 British motorists took their cars abroad in 1980, about 15 per cent more than in the previous year, but the uncertain economic outlook is producing few bets on what will happen in the coming season.

The 1980 boom, which took many in the travel trade by surprise, can be attributed to two main factors. One was the price cutting war among cross-Channel ferry operators, which meant that bargain fares were there for the taking.

The other was the strength of the pound against European currencies, making prices on the Continent more attractive than for some years. France, for instance, not so long ago regarded as one of the dearest countries for British holidaymakers, has suddenly become, in relative terms, *cheap*.

France was by far the most popular destination for British motorists. According to a survey by the Automobile Association based on requests for routes, 46 per cent of drivers chose France, with Italy the next most popular country (the choice of only 10.9 per cent) and Spain third (10.8 per cent).

In 1970, by the same AA yardstick, Spain was the most popular country (26 per cent), with France and Italy joint second (19 per cent). By 1975 France had emerged as the clear favourite (nearly 33 per cent), with Spain dropping to 19 per cent and Italy to 12 per cent.

The underlying explanation seems simply to be that for economic reasons motorists from Britain are not travelling so far. Italy and *Spain are not the only* countries to have suffered: Austria, which in 1970 was the fourth most popular destination, has since dropped to sixth place, accounting for only 2 per cent of holidays.

Local factors have also played a part. Terrorist *incidents, strikes and outbreaks* of legionnaires' disease have turned people away from Spain, while Italy has acquired an unfortunate *reputation for* thefts from cars, with handbags actually being snatched through windows.

Another trend revealed by *requests for AA routes* is that British drivers are tending to keep off continental motorways. The demand for non-motorway routes rose by *50 per cent last year*, the main impetus being the desire to avoid the motorway tolls levied in France and Italy.

The prospects for 1981 will obviously depend on the balance of economic considerations. The likelihood of an ever deepening recession would logically suggest that the number of continental motoring holidays will, at best, stabilize at about the 1980 level.

If *ferry prices stay* competitive and the pound continues to produce favourable *exchange rates, the picture* could be different. Certainly, early bookings have been notably buoyant, even in areas of high unemployment like *the North-east*.

People may be even more determined to take a holiday abroad to get away from bad times at home and there is already evidence that lumpsum redundancy payments are being earmarked for this purpose.

Preparing the ground

The first rule for those intending to venture abroad by car is to plan *carefully*, starting with the vehicle itself, which should be thoroughly checked and serviced shortly before leaving. Many *motorists neglect* to do this, with embarrassing and sometimes costly results.

Headlamp beams should be adjusted for driving on the *right hand side of* the road. Although this adjustment is not compulsory for visitors, it is *desirable* and the conversion is easily made. But remember to change back on returning to Britain.

Spare parts can be two to three times more expensive on the Continent and may not be readily available, so it is sensible to take a selection with you. The motoring organizations, and some garages, will hire kits of the commonly used parts, to which should be added extra headlamp bulbs (obligatory in some countries) and an emergency windscreen.

A red *warning triangle*, which can also be hired, is a legal requirement in most European countries and must be set up on the road if the *car is immobilized through* an accident or breakdown. A first-aid kit is useful anywhere and obligatory in Austria. The GB nationality *plate* must be displayed at the back of the car and on a caravan or trailer.

Cars must not be overloaded, for safety reasons and because this can incur fines and invalidate insurance. Luggage *on a roof rack* should be properly secured and neatly packed; reserve the rack for lighter, flatter items and cover with a sheet *of canvas or leathercloth*.

Insurance

The rule is to ensure adequate cover for all countries to be visited and the insurance company or broker will advise on this. The trouble is that minimum requirements vary *from one country* to another. The International Motor Insurance Certificate, better known as the Green Card, is no longer a legal requirement in the European Community but it does secure fuller cover. It is still essential in most countries outside the Community.

For Spain insurance should be extended to include a bail bond. In the event of an accident, the Spanish authorities can impound the car and detain the driver. The bond is a guarantee that a cash deposit will be paid to the court as security for bail. Bonds are issued by *motor insurers*.

The motoring organizations and others offer insurance against the car breaking down, with *provision for getting the vehicle* back to Britain if necessary, and for meeting personal expenses, such as loss of luggage and medical bills. The *AA 5-Star scheme will cover* a family of four in an average saloon for 17 days for about £41.

A new type of policy, *being* offered for the first time this year through travel agents, is Extrasure. For £63 it combines normal touring cover with a green card *and protects the no-claims* bonus.

Points of law

Essential documents, *which must be carried*, are the driving licence and vehicle registration form. Some countries, including Spain and those in the Eastern *block, require* an international driving permit (obtainable from the motoring organizations, whether or not you are a member). *In* Italy a *British driving* licence is acceptable only if accompanied by an Italian translation. In several European countries, the minimum *age for driving a car is 18*, as against 17 in Britain.

Under European Community law a vehicle with 10 or more seats is regarded as a commercial, and that includes minibuses. It means that the driver must be over 21 and keep a log of driving hours, which are limited by *law, on a tachograph fitted* to the vehicle.

Speed limits on the Continent follow a similar pattern to those in Britain: one for built-up areas, one for non-motorways and a third for motorways. West Germany is the only country where (on motorways only) you can drive as fast as you like. Most continental countries require seat belts to be worn and some have laws banning children from the *front seats of cars*.

Drinking and driving regulations vary but are most severe in Scandinavia. In Sweden and Finland it is an offence to drive with any alcohol in the blood and the penalties can include imprisonment.

On the road

Driving on the right hand side of the road presents less difficulty than might be thought, but special care should be taken when negotiating roundabouts and when overtaking, and in *France and some other countries* traffic joining a main road from the right can have priority.

On the busier roads the *flow of traffic makes it almost impossible* to stray into the wrong lane but driving along a quiet country lane it is easy to forget where you are and lapse back into British habits. One tip in the countryside is *always to park the car facing* the direction of the traffic so that you start from a correct position.

The motorist abroad has to come to terms with the metric system. When buying petrol, remember that four *and a half litres is roughly* equal to a gallon. There are usually two grades of fuel available, super, which has a similar rating to the British *four star*, and *regular* or normal, which corresponds to two star. Petrol on the Continent is invariably more expensive.

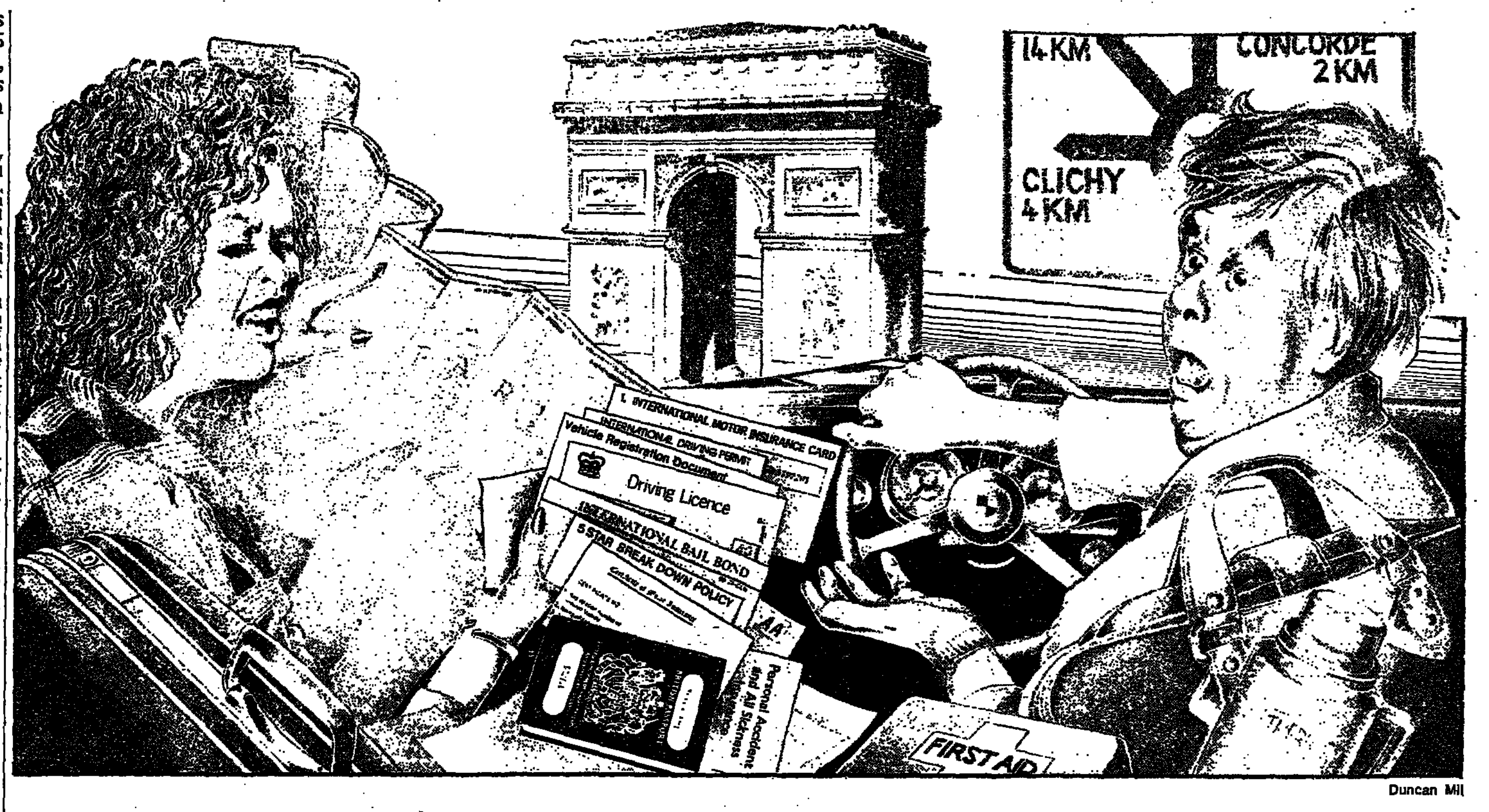
Maps and guides

Maps need to be clear and up-to-date and for the second requirement it is better to buy paper maps, which are frequently revised and can be thrown away at *the end* of the season, than a road atlas. *Among reliable sources* for continental motoring maps are the Automobile Association, George Philip, Michelin, especially for France, and Hallwag.

The AA's *Motoring in Europe* and the RAC's *Continental Handbook* are two standard works containing hotel and garage recommendations country by country, *as well as* information on local driving conditions road signs, town plans and many other topics.

They can be supplemented *by the Michelin guides—red* for hotels and restaurants and green for general tourist information—and the Anglo-American Fodor series, which is up*dated each year*.

Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent



Duncan Mil

Happy crossings!

The recent Egon Ronay report, likening ferry travel to being in "a colossal water-borne bus station" *with* constant queueing, unbelievably cramped cabins and unhelpful and unenthusiastic staff, is exaggerated.

It is still possible to have an *enjoyable* Channel crossing by boat (no one, surely, enjoys a hovercraft), as witness my idyllic crossing on a Sunday morning last July from Cherbourg by Townsend Thoresen's Free Enterprise II, an old boat usually reserved for shorter crossings.

Admittedly I had the only deckchair in sight on the rear sun-deck, and dared not move from it for the whole journey. But the sun shone all the way, we were accompanied by a regatta of sailing boats, and it was a delightful trip. Enjoyment depends more on the weather than the facilities of the boat.

Here are some points to help to make your ferry crossings as trouble-free and enjoyable as possible.

First, book your crossing carefully. Check up-to-date *road* maps to *choose the* route which will suit you best. Do not rely on a travel agent's clerk to find the best buy. Look at the brochures and *compare the prices of* different sailings yourself. Tariff structures are complicated, but there are still bargains in off-peak travel and excursion rates. You sail more happily if you know you are not paying *through the nose*.

Only lines with comparatively few vessels (like Brittany Ferries) publish the name of the ship against the *sailing time. But if you are* not booking long in advance, a telephone call to the ferry operators' port office should give you some *guidance* on which boats will be operating which services. It makes a considerable difference on longer crossings. Going Newhaven-Dieppe, for instance, prefer the British Senlac to the French vessels, and generally opt for bigger, *newer boats wherever* possible.

Arrive by the report time stated on your ticket. Everyone has heard of late arrivals rushing over the gangplank a minute before the boat casts off, but sailings really *do sometimes leave* ahead of schedule. Half an hour before scheduled departure, you could still be in time only to wave goodbye from the *shore*.

Fill up with discount price petrol before reporting at the harbour. The differential makes it well worth while. Buy *newspapers* before going on board also. There is *always* a shortage.

Note where you leave your car. Doors, staircases and parking areas are identified and only require a mental *note. On Townsend* Thoresen's new Blue Riband vessels on the Dover-Calais run they identify the car decks with big symbols (an elephant, a whale) *in the* hope that children will be better at noticing where they have parked than their parents have ever been.

Have the luggage you *want* for the trip ready to hand *in the car*, and convenient to the passenger doors. Impatient crewmen do not wait for scrabbling in the boot before pulling the next *vehicle up close behind*.

The luggage for the trip should ideally include all the food you need for the journey. Catering standards on the *ferries* are almost as lamentable as Ronay said, and vary more according to which crew happens to be on duty than which company or vessel you are travelling with. At the very least take flasks of tea, which no ferries are good at. On P & O boats, for example, tea and coffee is only available from machines, and tastes mainly of the UHT milk used to whiten it. Other companies have served me cups (often cardboard or plastic) that were even worse.

Also take up enough coats and impedimenta to secure the seats you want while you are away visiting the shops, lavatories or cafeterias, or striding the decks. Drivers are well advised to take the appropriate red Michelin guide with them as well, to study exit routes from the continental port and to research possible first-night stops.

On a crowded boat bag seats *first* (smoking and non-smoking areas are signed, so are quiet lounges, and you do well to avoid seats near *doorways, by aisles* where people will be lurching about with drinks, near video games and one-arm bandits, or in the area which is to be *used as a cinema if you do* not want to see the film), and then head for the duty-free shop. Wine and sherry are bad buys. Seaspeed, Sealink and Hoverlloyd offer the keenest prices. P & O are particularly dear for most *lines. Thirdly get in the* restaurant or cafeteria queue if you must.

Do not travel on an empty stomach. The ferry boats *are much less conducive to* sea-sickness than they used to be, but if you are a poor sailor a diet of dry bread and tart apples helps. Better still, *take travel sickness* pills, but avoid all alcohol, especially if driving.

Crews distribute sickness bags less liberally than they used to do. Ask for one in advance if you fear there is any danger you may need it.

To obtain picnic provisions for the return journey from the Continent, the best addresses are: **Boulogne**—Derrien, 1 Grande Rue (cooked meat); Lugand, 9 Grande Rue (cakes and sweets); Olivier, 43-45 rue Thiers (cheese). **Calais**—Maison du Fromage (Guislain), Place d'Armes. **Dieppe**—Eurieul, 22 Grande Rue, and Olivier, 16 rue St Jacques. **Le Havre**—Lefevre, Place Gambetta.

Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Offers to tempt the Channel traveller

This year looks like being another good one for the cross-Channel traveller, with the ferry lines vying for his custom by making all kinds of tempting offers.

The 20-odd miles between Britain and Europe, long criticized as the world's most expensive *sea* crossing, may not run quite so red with the blood of price-cutting ferry operators as it did last year, but the struggle continues.

The broad prognostication is that operators will try to hold fares for peak season traffic at 15 to 20 per cent *above last year's, but with* plenty of reduced fares available in the shoulder and off-peak periods. In these circumstances it could pay the traveller to wait before making his summer booking, while rival companies work *out how they are going to* attract him to their ships. The Government's refusal to allow a return to the price-fixing pool which obtained *until last year leaves the* way open for another bout of price cutting.

The two biggest operators —British Rail Sealink and *Townsend Thoresen—each* of whom claimed credit for the end of price fixing at the end of *1979*, had to share the blame a year later when it was clear that from their point of view, the whole thing had gone wrong.

Traffic was up last year by an estimated 25 per cent; but much of the extra was in the form of cut-price traffic which hardly covered its cost. The loss of revenue from premium fares meant that lines ended the year financially worse off despite the traffic growth.

Since the Department of Trade turned down the *request for a return to price* fixing, operators have to work out how to protect earnings in such a new and highly competitive market. *Within days of the Department* of Trade's announcement P & O and Townsend Thoresen published 1981 tariffs which were remarkably *similar, although not* identical, with minimum peak fares for car travellers increased by about 15 per cent, but many fares away from the peak period actually lower than last year. At the same time P & O said that should more price cutting set in it would be prepared to meet rival offers.

Sealink, meanwhile, was keeping its powder dry. It is Sealink which holds the key to *1981* both because it has substantial capacity in its big new ships and because last year it lost a big slice of its market share *to Townsend Thoresen which* it wants to get back.

Its main way of doing this will be to offer new cheap fares from Folkestone to *Boulogne and* Calais, and from Dover to Boulogne and Dunkirk, and new cheap night fares in the peak period, and even lower winter fares than last year: £12.50 *return for driver and* car on the short-sea routes up to April 9 and again from October.

The range of choice for *the car traveller* to the Continent has widened enormously over the past decade in terms of route, speed, distance, fare, and standard of *comfort*.

Much credit for this goes to the *Swedish-owned* hovercraft operator Hoverlloyd (now unfortunately facing an uncertain future largely as a result of the high cost of fuel) which pioneered a flexible new fare structure. This varies the rate not only *according to the season of* the year but also according to the day of the week and the hour of the day; and it has now been adopted by the main *ferry operators*. P & O, Sealink, and Townsend Thoresen each offer five different rates ranging, in the last case, from £5.50 for a car on an unpopular winter sailing to £55—just 10 times as much—for the *same vehicle* in the summer peak period. By P & O, the rate varies between a minimum £17.50 and a maximum £60.50 for a car and driver. The longer *overnight* crossing can cost £90 with just a reclining aircraft-type seat, and up to half as much again if a cabin is required.

Hovercraft remain the fastest option at about 40 minutes for Dover/Ramsgate to Calais/Boulogne, but the *gap* with conventional ferries was narrowed when Townsend Thoresen introduced its new faster ferries with a 75-minute crossing last year.

For most conventional ferries, the short-sea crossing still takes about one and a half hours, rising to about *four hours to the* Dover-Ostend, Newhaven-Dieppe and Weymouth-Cherbourg routes. It takes four to five hours by day and eight to *nine hours by night* between Portsmouth / Southampton and Cherbourg/Le Havre; six hours, Plymouth to Roscoff; six to nine hours, Harwich *to Hook of Holland*; and 14 hours, Hull to Rotterdam. In addition there are the longer trips to *Spain* and Scandinavia, taking in some cases 24 to 36 hours.

Standards of comfort vary in direct proportion to the duration of the crossing, ranging from a rather cramped and often bumpy seat on the hovercraft to the cruise-type amenities of some of the longer journeys.

Michael Baily
Shipping Correspondent

What it will cost

One-way fares to the Continent for two people and a medium-sized car (Ford Cortina) on a summer weekday (August 6). Maximum and minimum are shown where fares vary at different times of the day.

Hull-Rotterdam (North Sea Ferries)	£99.60
Felixstowe-Zeebrugge (Townsend Thoresen)	£50-£58
Dover-Calais (Townsend Thoresen)	£35-£56
Dover-Boulogne (P & O Ferries)	£40-£55.50
Dover-Ostend (Sealink)	£35-£56
Folkestone-Boulogne (Sealink)	£35-£53
Portsmouth-Cherbourg (Townsend Thoresen)	£72
Portsmouth-St Malo (Brittany Ferries)	£80.15
Southampton-Le Havre (P & O)	£75-£82
Newhaven-Dieppe (Sealink)	£66-£73
Plymouth-Roscoff (Brittany Ferries)	£80.15

Continental cover is limited

From the strictly legal point of view, there is no need to make any special insurance arrangements when taking a car from Britain to any other EEC country, or a *number of others on the* Continent. Nevertheless, it could prove expensive not to take action, because the cover provided on the Continent will be limited.

Automatically, any British motor insurance policy provides the bare minimum of cover required in a number of European countries, although Spain and Portugal are two notable exceptions.

The cover provided varies from country to country, but whereas in Britain insurers are obliged to give unlimited cover for claims made against *policy-holders* for death or personal injury, that is by no means universal on the Continent. In France, for instance, the law requires insurance for *only* 2m francs for personal injury in the case of private cars. While, in Britain, there is cover in respect of any members of a family party who are passengers, in France there is an exception in the case of *the policy-holder, the driver* or owner of the vehicle, their spouses, ancestors or descendants.

Naturally, laws on the Con*tinent do not require cars to* be insured against such things as theft and accidental damage, and while, therefore, a car may be insured on full comprehensive *terms* in Britain, that cover for the car itself will not be available automatically on the Continent.

The best way of overcoming that type of problem is to arrange with the car's *insurers for the policy to be* extended for any continental trip. Details of the dates and countries to be visited should be given in good time, and *naturally there will be* a charge for this extension of cover. The insurers will issue a green card, which has the effect of acting as an international certificate of insurance.

Before setting off, it *should be signed by the* user of the car. In the event of an accident involving personal injury, it can be helpful if this card is available *for production to* the authorities. In countries such as Spain or Portugal, it will be the only acceptable evidence that insurance is in force.

If a policy is extended, the car will be covered for the cross-Channel ferry trips, including any damage which occurs during loading or unloading. Also, there is generally cover for the customs duty which will be payable if a *car should be stolen* while on the Continent, or become a total loss. No duty is charged when a car is taken into a country and taken out *again. If, however, it enters* a country but does not leave, duty can be payable.

Often, it is a good plan to arrange additional insurance. While the cost of repairs will be met by a comprehensive policy, the extra cover can pay for the cost of flying out spare parts, bringing home a damaged car to Britain if it cannot be repaired in time and, in some cases, the cost *of alternative transport* may be met. Cover for medical expenses or luggage should not be overlooked. Often all these extra insurance arrangements can be made at the same time.

A point to watch if you will be visiting Spain is that the Spanish legal system allows the authorities to detain a driver and/or his car after an accident, unless a *deposit is made against* the possibility of the driver being found liable. One way of avoiding the possibility of that uncomfortable situation *is to take a bail bond* before setting off. This will act as surety, if necessary, although, should any fine be paid by an insurer in this way, the amount involved has to be repaid to the insurer.

If a caravan, boat or tent trailer is to be towed behind the car, normally this does not affect the motor insurance, although it should be *mentioned on the green* card. To avoid any possibility of falling between two stools it is often a good plan for the insurances for the car or caravan to be with the same insurer. Sometimes, one can go a stage *further than that, by arranging* with the motor insurer for that policy to be extended to provide liability cover not only while a trailer is attached, but also while it is detached.

E. F. Doole
motor manager, Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

Motoring through the Low Countries to Munich, driving in Scandinavia . . .

Autobahns show Britain the way

From the Belgian coast at *Ostend to Munich* in southern Germany, about 350 miles, must be one of Europe's fastest routes on motorways and the cost is low as there are no tolls on German motorways. However, there is the chance of a long hold-up because of multiple accidents—particularly in bad weather.

There is a choice of Dover-Ostend ferries, which normally take just under four hours on the sea journey. A good idea would be to arrive early in the morning and get away on the motorway system by way of Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, Liège, Aachen, Cologne or Frankfurt, or alternatively by way of Antwerp avoiding Brussels and Liège.

If you want to see something of Holland on the way, take either the Sealink overnight Harwich-Hook of Holland ferry which will have you on the road after breakfast, or better still the Olau line from Sheerness to Flushing at the mouth of the Scheldt and right on the motorway network.

You could visit the bulb fields (in April and May) slightly to the north, near Amsterdam and all its museums, and Haarlem and the Keukenhof botanical gardens. You can eat raw herrings from a street stall, make the canal tour, and visit the fortress town of Naarden. In Holland - 700 restaurants offer a tourist menu for 13.75fl (less than £3) and have a special sign. For a cheaper bed or any information go to the VVV at the sign of the blue triangle. The Netherlands National Tourist Office (143 New Bond Street, London W1) issues a useful booklet describing 15 routes for the driver with time to spare in Holland.

For drivers wishing to stick to the more direct Belgian routes, Bruges is well worth a visit, and could be fitted in on the way to Antwerp.

Once across the frontier, the German Autobahn administration issues a comprehensive leaflet called *Tanken und Rasten* which gives information and maps showing where all the service areas are, what they provide, and telephone numbers. This can be picked up at any motorway service area. Even blood plasma is available at every stop.

The leaflet is in all the main languages and points out that spare parts, breakdown service and towing service are available as well as food and drink, but no alcohol at night. By studying the map included, a driver can plan his journey in detail where he will take on fuel, eat, sleep, and leave the motorway.

The map is also colour-keyed so that services relating to that particular stretch of road can easily be located. Distances between the various service areas are also quoted, so the driver has all the information he needs.

Many of the German motorways have been duplicated to cater for heavy traffic, and their system is an education to anyone used to Britain's rather primitive and sometimes two-lane system.

Work is continually going on to improve the network and its amenities.

A journey like this could be monotonous, except that the nature of the country changes and even the nature and surface of the road. Between Cologne and Frankfurt, and again beyond Nuremberg, there are forested areas, and although the Autobahnen avoid gradients there are mountains to be seen at the southern end.

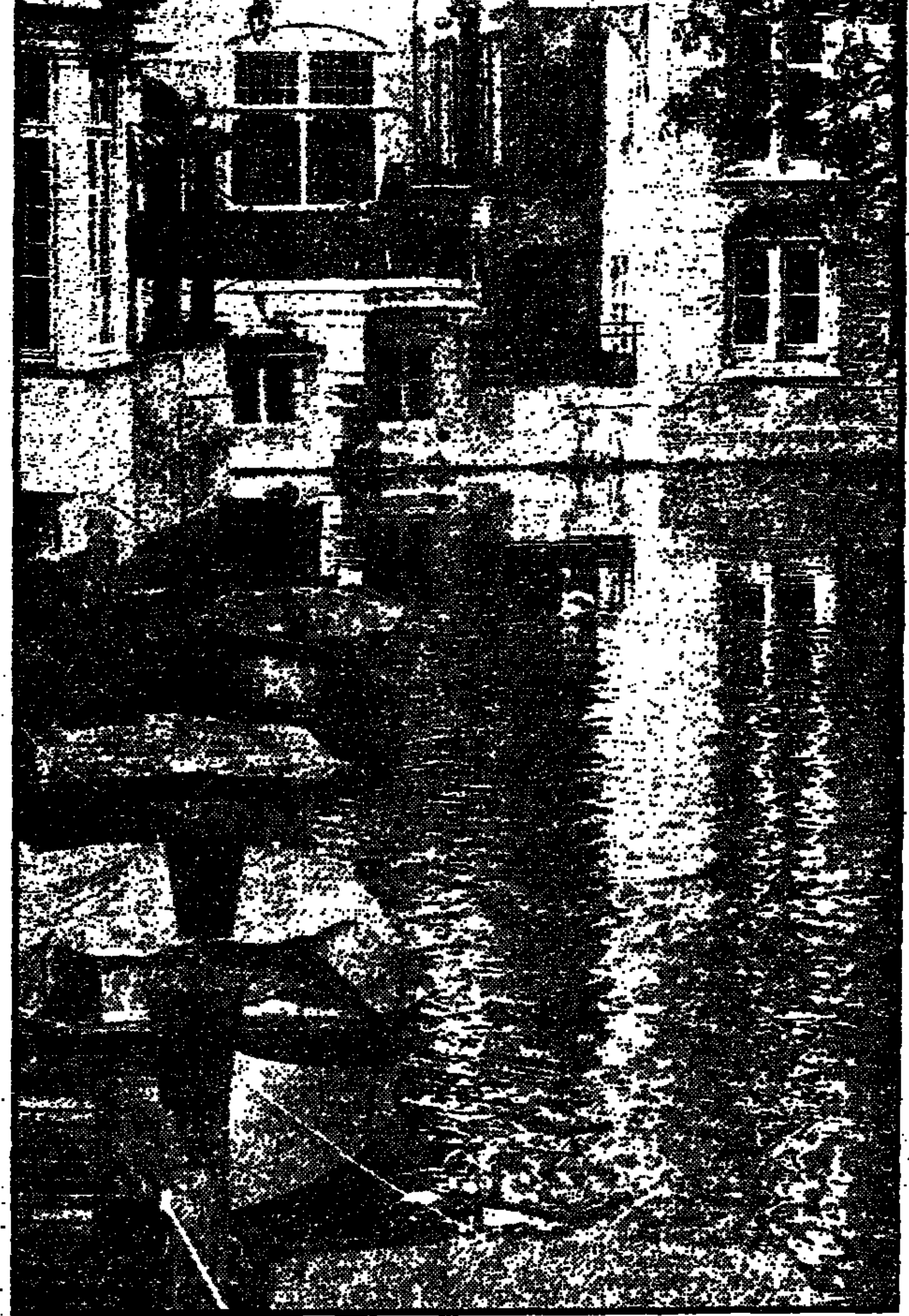
If the driver or passengers find the motorway route too boring they could turn off on to the normal road or *Bundesstrasse* at Würzburg and pick up the so-called *Romantischestrasse* which winds down through the medieval towns of Rothenburg and Dinkelsbühl to Donauwörth on the Danube. This route runs for 200 miles or so, but it could be left at Augsburg, which is not far from Munich.

Munich, at the foot of the Bavarian Alps, offers a lot to the tourist, and the surrounding area is rich in scenic and historical beauties. Augsburg on the *Romantischestrasse* which follows an old Roman route, the Via Claudia, which ran to Rome, has all sorts of glories.

Crossing the Moselle Valley, where it meets the Rhine west of Frankfurt, time should be found to taste the Moselle wine. Beer drinkers are also well catered for with more than a dozen varieties of both light and dark beer, usually in enormous pots.

Dachau concentration camp is near Munich and has been preserved as a memorial for the historically minded. The surrounding countryside has a pastoral, peaceful air and is great motoring country. In Munich there are several famous hotels, but my favourite is the Vier Jahreszeiten (Four Seasons) which has 367 beds. It is old-fashioned, in the best sense of the word, but in the luxury class for price.

George Bishop



Pleasure boats on the peaceful Bruges canals.

Tollund Man: age has only slightly withered him

It may seem a long way to go to see a dead man, but in this case it is not crazy or morbid. Every time I go to Denmark, which is about once every two years, I try to make a special pilgrimage to Silkeborg Museum to see *Tollund Man*. He was dug up in a peat bog.

The miracle is that, although he is 2,000 years old, he is more lifelike than any sculpture can be. Only his head is displayed and one side is a bit crushed, but you would never notice that if you looked at him from the right angle. Besides, when you know someone long enough, you forget what blemishes their looks have. Age has turned him black.

My friend Tollund Man sleeps peacefully. The wrinkles round his eyes and set of his mouth speak of quiet good humour. If he was sacrificed to the Gods, then that man had faith. He had time for a shave, too, though you can actually see the fine hairs that grew a bit afterwards, but not so long you would mistake him for a hobo. No, he has dignity.

He just happens to be in my favourite part of Denmark, a small country where everything is within easy reach, thanks to the ferries and good network of roads. Silkeborg is in the Danish lakeland. With their nice sense of irony, the Danes call the highest point thereabouts "Skymountain", but you can drive up its lower slopes without changing gear, then walk up a bit farther for a glorious view.

The contrast with the juts and crags of Norway could not be greater. You cannot hope to see Norway properly in one longish holiday. The Norwegians themselves say 100 to 150 miles a day is considered a comfortable maximum for average cars. Most main roads are asphalted, and Norwegians like to think their country is accessible, though it would be wise to check first to see where you can take a caravan, if you have one.

Hairpin bends and zig-zag turns will take you to some of the most breathtaking scenery. Speed ought not to matter too much, if you really want to enjoy Norway. The recipe suggested by the Norwegians for a first holiday is to add one or two west country fiords to the east Norwegian dales. The picture Norway always conjures up is fiords and lakes, mountain passes, valleys, forests, rivers and waterfalls.

If you are more adventurous the Arctic Sunway is one suggested tour, which covers the country up to the North Cape. I have seen one or two oldish bangers proudly displaying evidence that they have been there, though I would not have trusted myself that far in them. The distance is about 1,350 miles, for which at least 10 days are needed. The way back can be by way of Finland and Sweden.

Finland has its own suggested route across the Arctic Circle to northern Lapland, which curiously enough, raises the topic of food. Only a few miles south of the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi (population 30,000), there is to be had reindeer, which can be served in several different ways: smoked, dried or roasted. Desserts from fresh arctic berries include arctic bramble, cranberries and red whortleberries.

Fish is always worth having in Scandinavia, if not fresh then bottled or tinned. It sounds mundane, but the herrings are anything but so when marinaded as deliciously as they can be. I prefer to start the meal with them and snaps (the Danish spelling). Smoked eel served with scrambled egg is one of my favourite delicacies. The snaps is served along with beer for open sandwiches.

After trying my first Scandinavian meal 25 years ago and making a futile attempt to taste as many of the delights arrayed on three tiers at the centre of the table as politely as possible, I was given a tip: the English idea of a sandwich with all that bread blurs the taste of the contents. So do not use as much bread for each delicacy as you would in Britain. Cut it into smaller pieces then you can try more flavours.

But I am speaking of those occasions when you are not hard up and do not need to look for a cheap meal of one or two sandwiches at lunchtime which will get you by with a cup of coffee. Besides, it is highly dangerous to drink and drive in Scandinavia. The penalties are severe, so save your snaps drinking for days or nights when you are not using the car.

Admittedly, Swedish prisons can be worth a stay, but it would not be voluntary. One I went to (on a visit), not far from Stockholm, was in delightful countryside and everyone there had the glow of health. And there is a four-star hostel for offenders on the outskirts of Stockholm.

Thanks to the new high value of the pound, the British can actually contemplate paying for their stay in Scandinavia, something I have on occasions been forced to avoid, pauper like, by reciprocal hospitality. The problem has been to stop Scandinavians paying for entertainment in Britain, in the hope that they will reciprocate over there. They have been kind and generous enough in the past, but honour and dignity have demanded that at least one meal be bought by us in a suitable restaurant for the hosts, even though it meant cheeseparing in private.

But now there is no excuse. And there are more options available for getting there, as long as the pound stays high. One can think of going by ship without so many qualms, which means one is not necessarily reduced to driving from the Hook of Holland to Denmark in a day. It is not as bad as it sounds, provided that you have a car fast enough to take advantage of the Autobahn and comfortable enough to snooze in. It is not a journey to be tackled single-handed. Two hours on, and two hours off, is the least tiring schedule I have found.

There is plenty of choice of ways of getting to Scandinavia by car ferry. The national tourist offices have ample brochures. It is possible to sail to West Germany and drive up from there, which is a useful compromise.

The North Sea is more Latin in temperament than predictably Saxon. One trip it can be almost as calm as Windermere, the next it can toss you about. An abiding memory is a brave attempt to dance on a German ship as it rolled, so that all the couples moved as if by an invisible hand from one side of the floor to the other, as much in time with the heaving sea as with the music.

I was going to say it is practical to get to Finland only by ferry from within Scandinavia, but it is possible to sail in approximately 70 hours direct with a car from Hull or Purfleet on cargo-passenger vessels. There are two, each with accommodation for 12 passengers. More details may be had from the United Baltic Corporation (telephone 01-253 3456).

Do not forget that in the more remote parts of Scandinavia the roads may not have the sort of surface we are used to in Britain, though there are plenty of excellent ones. And never let your petrol gauge get too low when you are in the wide open spaces. Seek advice before you go about the range of weather you may expect for the time of year at your destination. Last February in Stockholm the harbour outside my hotel was frozen and the cold can be devouring. But the summer can be grand.

Peter Evans

. . . and travelling by road and sea to Spain and the South of France

Alias M Hulot, en route to the Pyrénées

The obvious way to the coastal resorts of northern Spain, by *direct ferry from* Plymouth to Santander, is described below. That is *hardly a motoring holiday*, however. So I would opt for starting the journey by ferry from *Portsmouth to Cherbourg*, which takes five hours on the Townsend Thoresen boats. An alternative *is* Southampton-Le Havre by P & O Ferries, which takes two hours longer.

One of the disadvantages *if you* want rapid travel is that there is no motorway running north-south in that *area*, and it is a case of navigating your own route by the *routes nationales* right across France and along the Spanish coast. The distance is about 650 miles, but bearing in mind that it will be slow travelling if the speed limits for normal roads are observed it would be comfortable to allow two night stops, unless you opt to start early and drive late to make the fastest journey possible—which rather spoils the enjoyment of the country.

Cherbourg is close to all the monuments and museums of the *Normandy landings*. At least a day would be needed to take these in, with perhaps the Bayeux Tapestry as well. If you want to pause, the Hotel du Lion d'Or *is near by* and has a Michelin rosette for cooking, and good cider if you do not *want to spend too much* on wine.

If taking the direct route it would be the N174 by way of St Lô, then the N175 to Rennes, and the N137 to Nantes.

Rennes is too far for the *lunch stop unless you come* off the night boat very early, but there are two *recommended restaurants at Pontaubault*, not far from Mont St Michel.

From Nantes stay with the N137, which makes an inland swerve to go around La Rochelle, the old fortified town beloved of Simenon. You could go slowly through the town and carry on the same road to Royan at the mouth of the Gironde, which is famous for fossils (at St Georges de Didonne near by) and a modern cathedral.



The old fishing harbour at Biarritz. The resort has more than 25 luxury, vintage hotels.

This is a good day's drive, and we might even stop earlier, perhaps at La Rochelle where there is lobster to be eaten. There are 10 listed hotels, but what I have done here in summer is to go to the *Syndicat d'Initiative* or tourist office where they will find you a room in a French seaside boarding house where you may pretend to be M Hulot for the night.

There is the option of missing Royan and taking the road through Saintes Pyrénées. I have spent many *Roman remains) and on to* Bordeaux. A motorway is being built which will speed *up the journey. Bordeaux* has slow and difficult traffic, and there is the Garonne to cross. *South of the city you* cross Les Landes, the great pine forest on sand where each tree has a cup attached collecting its resin—a somewhat boring drive, now on the N10.

From the junction with the N124 the journey improves, with old towns and villages, and the beginnings of the Basque country which covers an area of both France and Spain. The Basques have their own language which is unrelated to French or Spanish, and you will see many houses with the *pelote basque* court marked on the end.

The country becomes green as you approach the Pyrénées. I have spent many happy holidays here between mountains and the sea. There is bull-fighting in Bayonne to detain those who enjoy it. Then there is the choice of whether to enjoy St Jean-de-Luz, the little fishing port, and Hendaye, which *was* fashionable in Edwardian times, or take to the motorway.

For a night's stop Biarritz has old-fashioned and luxurious *hotels—more than 25 of* them—the most luxurious being the Palais. On the minor road carts pulled by water buffalo meander along, and all is green and peaceful —unless the nationalists are busy.

I have a fondness for the Basque country, where you may wander at will from France to Spain across minor border crossings on the back roads. But this is all off the route to Santander, which is along the motorway past the Spanish summer capital of San Sebastian.

It is a long haul, and if *tired you could always return* by the direct ferry to Plymouth, although such plans *would have to be laid* well in advance as it is a popular way of getting to and from Spain.

G.B.

Ferry succeeds by caring for the young family

The years of springtime ambles in a small sports car through Brittany and the Loire Valley, and on through Biarritz, to the fresh green countryside of Galicia in northern Spain, came to a sorry end when my son arrived.

The paraphernalia of Mothercare will not be squeezed into a two-seater, so the MG has been replaced by a family Ford in which my son shrieks for attention every 50km.

So a holiday with the sterilizer unit in East Anglia was looming until I heard about the playroom and nursery on board the Armorique. Run by Brittany Ferries, the 5,700-ton vessel plies between Plymouth and Santander, carrying your car to Spain in just 24 hours in a style to which *I hope* I shall become accustomed.

It means that you miss the wines of the French countryside but it provides you with a whole ocean in which to *dispose of the nappies and* leaves you a mere spin down the road to Oviedo or, if you prefer, 244 miles to Madrid.

The French-owned Brittany Ferries is now the only roll-on, roll-off car ferry link between Britain and Spain and much of its success is due to the uncomplicated shore-to-ship transfer in your heavily laden car at both Plymouth and Santander.

At both ports there is but *one terminal*, exclusive to the company, so even the traveller who needs a ball of string and a compass to find his way round the honeycomb of docks at Dover and Southampton has nothing to *fear*.

The key to the success of Brittany Ferries in attracting *young families to Spain is* the 12-hour cut in the 36-hour voyage which now *extinct passages* from Southampton took.

The 24-hour trip from Plymouth *means better use of* the ship and more civilized departure and arrival times. *In high season, from March* 19 to October 27, the Armorique leaves Plymouth at 8 am on Mondays and 11.30 *am on Wednesdays, and* Santander at similar times on Tuesdays and Thursdays, after a two-hour passenger turn round.

In winter there is a *once-weekly* service departing Plymouth on a Wednesday and Santander the next day. A purpose-built ferry purchased by Brittany Ferries in 1976, the Armorique takes 700 passengers and 165 cars, and unlike previous competitors from Southampton rarely has trouble filling.

With your compulsory two *red triangles in case of* breakdown neatly stacked beneath the travelling cot in the boot, the drive from Millbay Docks, Plymouth, to the terminal on Calle de Antonio Lopez, opposite the cathedral at Santander, is a pleasure. There are no long queues of cars at either end for embarkation or customs.

After driving on to the *car deck it is wise to take* everything you need with you to your cabin because there is the complication of *summoning a member of the* crew to escort you should you wish to return to the *vehicle* during the voyage.

A steward takes you to your cabin, which is air-conditioned and either two or four berth. All have their own washbasin, and many a shower and a lavatory. With the children safely ensconced with the hostess and a pile of toys and games in the playroom, there is time to enjoy the three sundecks and the duty-free bars as if it were properly the first day of the holiday.

There is a discotheque and a cinema, featuring three up-to-date *films except for the* first performance which is for those children in the *early afternoon who* have tired of the playroom.

For compulsive shoppers *there is a duty-free super*market and a separate gift shop. For lunch you may *help yourself in the cafeteria* but at night there is an excellent five-course menu in the French restaurant *which will cost about £8 a* head. Children are not allowed.

The civilized departure and arrival schedules mean that you are woken in time for an English or continental breakfast an hour before you dock. It all amounts to an excellent time-saving start to a family holiday in Spain with your car and without the irritations of a trek through France.

The car fare is calculated on the number of passengers in it. But as a price guide the *return* fare in high season for a family with two children travelling in a Cortina and occupying a luxury four-berth cabin will be £369.90 this summer. That more than covers the cost of petrol through France, but it can mean the *difference* between taking a touring holiday in Spain with young children or not.

Michael Horsnell

The hard and the easy way to the Côte d'Azur

There are two ways to drive to the Côte d'Azur. One looks easy on the map but can be like a nightmare for the motorist; the other looks difficult to plan but is reasonably easy to drive.

The easy-on-the-map way starts from the Dunkirk autoroute and heads south, fol*lowing signs to Arras/Paris* via the autoroute A1. At Paris join the Boulevard Périphérique Est, look for the exit Porte d'Italie—Autoroute du Sud, follow the signs to Lyons A6, then on south via the *autoroutes A7* and A8.

It sounds easy but during the summer season every motoring tourist living north of Lyons plans the same route.

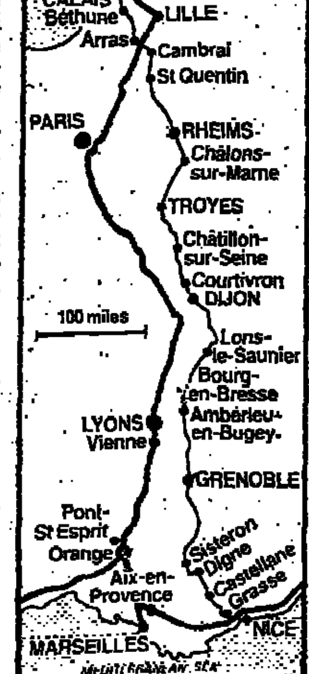
The autoroute round Lille is old and in *disrepair*. For Europe's intercontinental lorry drivers it is the only *road to Paris, and it is heavily* loaded with transport traffic every day of the year.

The Périphérique round Paris looks good on the map, but it looks good to Parisians too. Some of the most serious accidents in France happen at this time of year on this stretch of road, and when they do the gendarmerie *closes large sections of* the road to clear the wreckage. The poor motorist now *has to contend* with *inner* roads which are not signposted for through traffic.

On to Lyons, where the real jams start to build. All day through the summer the roads are almost at a standstill because this city is the real crossroads of Europe. Our motorist and his return*ing counterpart meet*, in a system of tunnels in the centre of the town, the Swiss and Italian holidaymaker travelling north and west from Grenoble, and the unfortunate French motoring tourist heading east from St Etienne.

Huge traffic jams start when all the aforementioned *motorists meet at Orange*, where the autoroute splits, to go on west to Perpignan, south to *Marseilles or* the Côte d'Azur. I can remember being stationary on this triple-lane road for two hours one hot July morning. My advice is to go the other way—the hard-to-plan way.

From Calais drive to Béthune, and on to Cambrai, St Quentin, Rheims, and Châlons-sur-Marne. Then drive down the route 77 to Troyes, and on to Châtillon-sur-Seine and Dijon. From Dijon pick up the N5 and N83 to Lons-le-Saunier, then to Bourg-en-Bresse, and then on the N75 to Ambérieu-en-Bugey and Grenoble. Now you are in the pretty part of south-eastern France—the *Alps*.



Stay on the *RN75 all the* way south to Château-*Arnoux*. Although the road looks like an intestine on the map much of it has, like most of the roads from now on, been recently widened and *resurfaced. Now it is* simple: pick up the RN85 to Digne, Castellane and Grasse, and before you know it you are on the Riviera.

This hard-to-plan route is well signposted, with about 80 per cent of the journey being on traffic-free roads. (everyone else is on the autoroutes). A lot of the route is pre-planned on the excellent Bison Futé map available free from the French Tourist Office in Piccadilly. *This map is essential for any* motorist thinking of driving in France. It has been *designed by the French* Ministry of Transport specifically to help motorists to avoid the main traffic holdups.

Unfortunately the printing leaves a lot to be desired, so it is best to transfer your *part of the route on to a* Michelin map (number 916). All the Bison Futé *routes vertes* are signposted at every main junction with a green arrow, making navigation almost foolproof. I made a journey to the Côte d'Azur in 1980. Taking the autoroute way and leaving Calais at 8 pm one day late in July, and driving all night, we arrived at Paris at 1.30 am, Vienne at midday, and Pont St *Esprit just north of Orange*, our first overnight stop, at 2.30 pm. Leaving our hotel at 8.50 am the following day we did not join the autoroute because of the traffic jam which could be seen from the bridge which runs over it at this point. We arrived at Nice at 1.15 pm.

The total distance was 838 miles, with petrol costs of about £30. The car used was a Citroën *G Special* with an average of about 35 miles a gallon. Toll fees were about £14. Be warned: the autoroute from Lyons to Aix-en-Provence and on to the Italian border is 87 francs, or 128 francs for a motor-caravan as these vehicles are classified as lorries.

Our return journey was by *the other route*. Leaving Nice at midday on an August Saturday we arrived at Sis*teron at 5 pm and were still* able to book an hotel at this time. (I had been unable to book an hotel anywhere near the autoroute for our downward journey as early as May.) Leaving Sisteron at 10 am the next day we stopped at a little village hotel in Courtivron north of Dijon, on the D6, at 7 pm. The following day, Monday, we left at 10.30 am and arrived at Calais at 9.10 pm. *Total milage registered* was 760 miles—78 less than the downward journey.

Petrol costs were about £23, and there were no autoroute toll fees. There was the extra overnight accommodation expense, but at 44 francs for the night for a family of four, at the Hôtel de la Poste in Courtivron, that was a luxury I think I could afford.

Ted Trott

Fred Emery

The balancing act round the Cabinet table

A week of some fun and some pique at Westminster has still left many MPs puzzled over the Prime Minister's first Cabinet reshuffle. It is predominantly of interest to the Tories, but Labour and Liberal MPs are *naturally* fascinated with this exercise in man management. Ministerial appointments, after all, provide the rare interludes when decisions can be solely in the hands of a Prime Minister; once shifts are made they have to be lived with for what is a long time in politics.

Such events are supposed to have nice clear-cut lines. But this rearrangement strikes both ardent Thatcherites and *Tories of the wetter* persuasion as rather formless and, at junior ministerial level, almost over concerned with having a balanced crew.

In other words, too few ardent Thatcherites got promotion. Certainly, the outcome in no way resembles the first account I read on holiday. "Mrs Thatcher decimates her opponents", said one German newspaper. As a gesture of authority it certanly backfired in the hapless clarifications over who had or had not been leaking Cabinet discussions. Perhaps in the end it was a product of both the Prime Minister's impulsiveness to do something and her innate caution about doing too much.

Not surprisingly some odd interpretations have been placed on the *aftermath—none odder* than that Mr Francis Pym has been somehow promoted by being removed against his wishes from the Ministry of Defence.

Explanations sought at varying levels of authority produce some answers, not all of them taking the case much farther. The official version, as far as it goes, is that the lines of promotion had to be opened up, if only to get what has been called organic growth in political careers. All very commendable in plant propagation, but here there was only one newcomer to the Cabinet, two members moving sideways to responsibilities new to them, and one Cabinet career nipped in the bud.

Not exactly a bold exercise, although there is no disclaimer to the suggestion that Mr John Nott was moved to Defence to perform functions that Mr Pym declined to do.

Another version, which has gained wide currency, builds on the latter point to make Mr Pym's removal the focus of the reshuffle. Since he had fought hard against cuts in defence spending, at least twice in one year letting the Prime Minister know that he would resign if the cuts went too deep, he was a nuisance to both her and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He was also a shrewd exploiter, in opposing spending cuts, of Mrs Thatcher's own supporters within the party, all those who champion her as the Iron Lady.

The problem with this theory, dubbed "humiliation" of Mr Pym, is that you do not offer a politician of such stature the new political springboard he now has in both the House and the Cabinet, at least not without risk.

Yet another version which, to my mind, is more plausible is that, to the Prime Minister, the replacement of Mr Norman St John-Stevas with a stronger leader of the House was the crux, with the transfer of Mr

> The political balance after the reshuffle remains scarcely altered

Pym away from Defence a welcome bonus to her and the Chancellor.

The business, incidentally, took from Friday to Monday, although the Prime Minister was undoubtedly accurate in saying that its final dispatch took only the course of a working day.

Mrs Thatcher, certainly consulting the Chief Whip, Mr Michael Jopling, was adamant that Mr St John-Stevas had to go. She wanted a tougher hand at the Commons helm, although, paradoxically, Cabinet colleagues say she does not see Parliament as being important in getting the Government's policies across.

The former Leader of the House was criticized for being too much the Leader of the whole House, and not firm enough with the Opposition. Yet considering how successfully Mr St John-Stevas had turned the Black Rod affair against Mr Michael Foot, this criticism strikes an odd note. Other Government blunders in the *Commons* could more easily be laid at other ministers' doors, including Mrs Thatcher's. But that fact itself discloses woundingly that Mr St John-Stevas did not have clout with his own colleagues. And—hardly a minor detail—the disparaging Cabinet nicknames attributed to his invention—"John Nit", "Sir Geofrrey Dho", "Heather" and the like—left him without any friends, or least anyone prepared to fight for him.

But the replacement was not straightforward. Mr Pym, as he made clear in a radio interview, did not want to move. Mr Humphrey Atkins was seen as a possible alternative. Colleagues doubted whether Mr Pym would agree to go. In this government a full department is seen as the key to power.

But Mrs Thatcher, in commander-in-chief mode, finally gave the order; and Mr Pym, a loyalist and gentleman, acquiesced. No MP who has talked to him this week has come away believing that any promotion was intended or discerned.

One clear promotion there was, that of Mr Leon Brittan to be Treasury Chief Secretary. A protege of Sir Geofrey's, he is authoritatively expected to get down to the wearing nitty gritty far more than Mr John Biffen ever did, and without crossing Mrs Thatcher's path.

What Mr Biffen thinks of having a department all to himself is not altogether clear. His devotion to the Government's economic policy is not in doubt. But his aspertions on the too-doctrinaire adherence to the Government's medium-term financial strategy had, it is said, begun to jar.

Mr Nott at Defence is clearly expected to be a hatchet man. But one sceptic suggested he could well end up advocating more money on defence than even Mr Pym.

The political balance of the Cabinet, after all this, remains scarcely altered. The economic jobs, now plus Defence, are still in the hands of Mrs Thatcher's keenest supporters. Also as before the other Conservative heavyweights, whether in Lords or Commons, are kept at a distance from economic policy.

Mr Pym, by dint of new access to key Cabinet committees, could in theory exert his own pragmatic blend of political influence. But that remains a matter more of potential than fact.

The others may worry or complain but they are still being given no look-in on economic or budget policy, as Mr Nigel Lawson's speech, entitled "Thatcherism in practice", re-emphasized.

What perhaps most worries them all, arids and wets alike, is that even if the policy works, in terms of getting inflation back into single figures this year, they can see no turning point for unemployment. Hence the revived *emphasis* on small business, seen as the only source for new jobs; hence the revived insistence that the incentive structure, income tax cuts and all that, be maintained. Thereby hangs another tale.

Letter from Giza

A foul time in the desert with Canasta

It was a bad day for dogs at the Pyramids of Giza, but Ibrahim Fikry was not bothered. He leaned back on his stick, clucked his tongue at his indifferent camel and went on flashing his white-washed teeth in our direction. Every few seconds, the crack of a rifle would echo off the ancient building blocks of old King Cheops's extravagant tomb, followed instantly by the wail of a wounded mongrel. "The dogs are a nuisance", explained Mr Fikry with equanimity. "They bring disease. Our people have to shoot them."

Dogs, of course, do not make money at the Pyramids so they receive less sympathy than the moon-faced camels that make a living for Mr Fikry. He had just hired out a particularly repulsive beast to *The Times*, a creature of such unsurpassing ugliness and ill temper that riding it was a concession to the owner rather than a privilege. Its fur resembled a worn-out kitchen carpet and a cluster of flies swarmed round its huge nose.

After 25 years hawking his five camels to the world's most intimidated tourists, Mr Fikry has a special line of patter. "This camel is Canasta. She is a good camel, very good. She likes you. You can take the rope. You wanna go to the right, you pull to the right. You wanna go to the left, you pull to the left. You wanna stop, you pull rope. Welcome to Egypt."

There was another burst of gunfire from the Pyramids, another animal yelp of pain and the camel turned sharply to the right. I pulled the reigns. The camel turned left and belched. Mr Fikry commended me on my skill in handling his beloved Canasta. Over to our right, another dragoman, a bulky figure in a dark galibeah gown, was swearing fiercely in German at an astonished tourist from a Munich travel club. He clasped the man by the arm and demanded three more Egyptian pounds. The German stared back then broke free and fled in the direction of the Temple of the Queen.

The Egyptian authorities turn an indulgent eye towards the activities of the 150 dragomans who live in the little mud and brick village of Nassaman at the foot of the Giza plateau. All have to be licensed to ply their trade and only the inhabitants of the village can hire camels or horses around the Pyramids. But they unerringly pick a shouting match with the meanest holidaymakers and Mr Fikry has a shrewd understanding of just how far a tourist can be pushed. Here, for the benefit of *Times* readers contemplating a visit to the greatest wonder of the World, is his advice:

1. Never—never—try to bargain about the price of your camel ride before climbing aboard. If you lack so much confidence that you need to bargain first, you will easily be intimidated into paying more later. If you say nothing. The dragoman thinks you know the fair price.
2. Do not pay too much. Japanese tourists overspend—Mr Fikry took 1,000 US dollars from one a few days ago for a return camel trip to Memphis, 15 miles south of Giza, and he would have accepted a quarter of that. Russians are despised because they try to pay with packets of Bulgarian cigarettes.
3 Do not be rude about dragomans in their presence. Their English (or French or German or Italian is almost always good enough to understand the insult and they will make you pay for it (literally) when your ride is over.

This is therefore the moment to say that Mr Fikry is a splendid dragoman, as considerate, polite and as honest as Mephistopheles. Even before he drove camels he owned horses, he told us. He had learned English in the British army—"The *British* army?" we asked, and Mr Fikry fumbled inside his galibeah for a dirty yellow card. It bore a photograph of a very young Ibrahim Fikry and was signed by a Royal Air Force officer at RAF Kasfareet in Suez. Mr Fikry had been registered as a civilian worker but his occupation was listed as "fruit vendor".

What happened to the horses?, we asked. "I sold many oranges", said Mr Fikry, beaming.

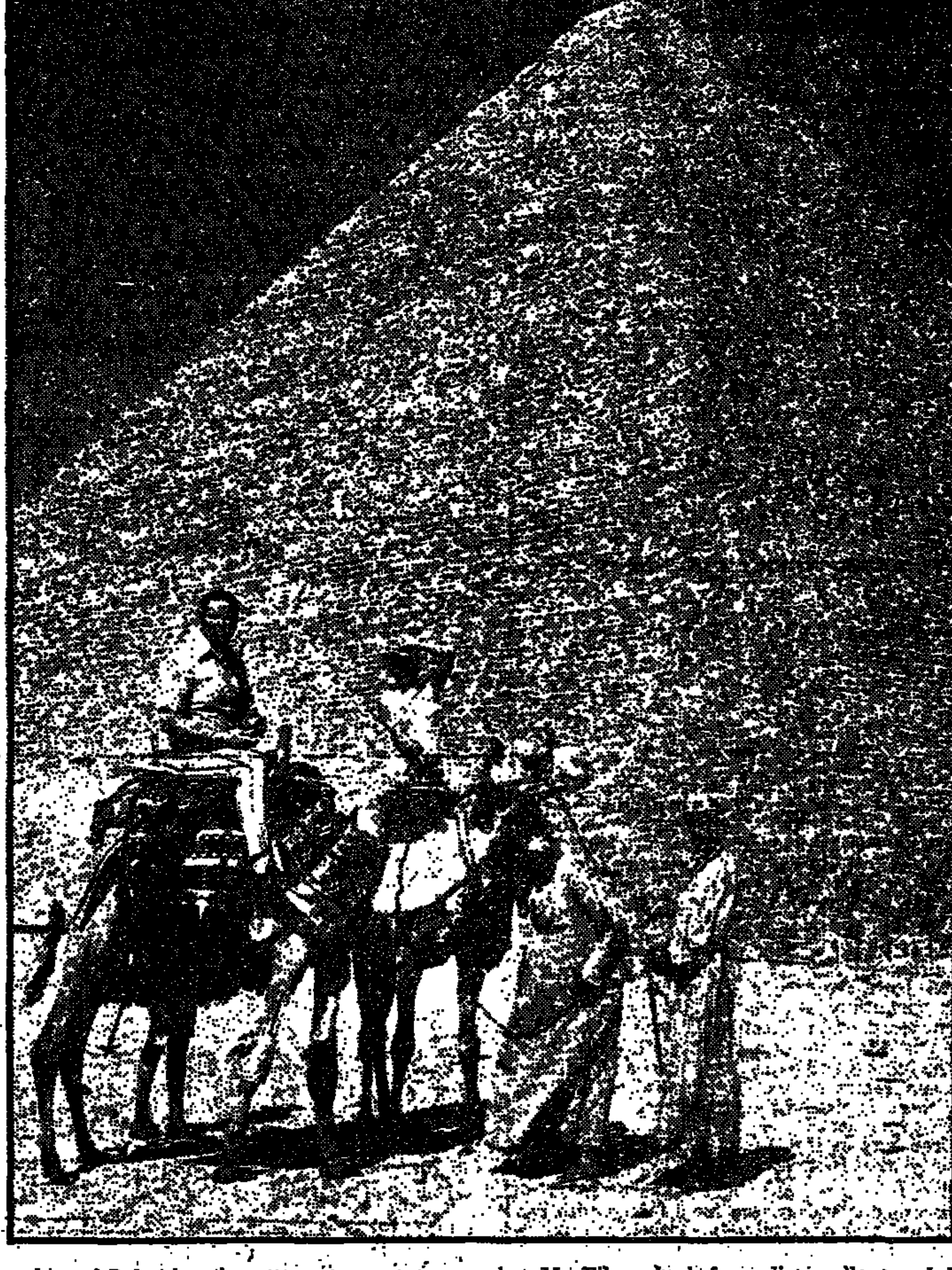
Canasta snorted again and stumbled up on to the Pyramid causeway built by the slaves of antiquity. Her scraggy hooves slipped on the polished stones and she began to smell, reminding me of a tattered phrase-book I once bought in the Cairo bazaar. It included an entry telling tourists how to say: "Pray, pick me a nosegay" in Arabic.

All the Pyramid camels come from the Sudan—they cost about US$1,000 in the Cairo camel market—and live to the age of 25. Canasta was only eight but she showed signs of age. At times she halted beside cracks in the causeway and just level with the Sphinx she scuffed her hooves and almost fell over. Mr Fikry and his brother Mohamed own their five camels—there are no mortgages in the world of the dragomans—although a bespectacled tout operated on their behalf at the feet of the Sphinx.

Canasta belched once more and fell to her knees. She was tired. Mr Fikry waited patiently beside her. We had followed his advice and not bargained at the start. How much did he want, we asked? "As you like", he said. Yes, but really how much would he expect? "As you like".

One pound? "As you like". I produced the first note in my pocket and before I had realized it was a fiver (about £3 sterling), Mr Fikry had gently relieved me of it. "You are a very good person", he announced and held out his hand. How could we refuse such a handshake?

Robert Fisk



Mounted tourists posing before the extravagant tomb of old King Cheops: always remember, the dragoman knows best...

Sportsview

Mike Burton in action . . . he is an orator too.

The rugby types who never break training

The "Master of Horse" has buttoned up the travel; "Daffodil", another committee man, has made all the local arrangements and the Bloody Men's Rugby Club is in an advanced state of preparation for its fixture today.

Since the club's motto is *Deoch (the Gaelic word for* drink) and its crest comprises a pint pot surmounted by a rugby ball, lurching goalposts and clouds on high, it is not surprising to learn that the expedition to Cardiff will be strictly non-combatant. Another committee man, "Le Piquet", will hoist the club pennant as a rallying point for the thirsty: its colours are a horrendous striped mixture of orange, dark blue, light blue and maroon, so the members should have no difficulty in identifying the location and then hearing from the treasurer and turnmaster when they have to buy the next round.

The founder of the Bloody Mens' Rugby Club, and for many years now its zealous, presiding genius, is Sir Robert Lawrence, vice-chairman of the British Railways Board and chairman of the BR Property Board and of the National Freight Company. "It all began", he explained, "in 1949 when half a dozen chaps who knew each other vaguely were travelling up on the day train for the Calcutta Cup in Edinburgh.

"There were no dining cars at the time and before Newcastle the booze had run out. So I used my railway clout to get adequate replacement supplies put on board.

"We all agreed to meet after the game in the North British Hotel and to mutual astonishment everyone turned up. We all went back on the night train, anyone needing sleep being wise to lock his compartment door, and we agreed to meet again at the Duke of Cambridge, Hounslow, on the morning of the next Calcutta Cup game. Everyone turned up again, plus friends. The routine went on and by 1954 we decided to form a club, primarily for old players who had lost connexion with their club and wanted organized arrangements for seeing the internationals and the Varsity match."

Robert Lawrence was elected secretary and committee of one, and the first president was a man of Churchillian independence, one A. P. Hunter who wore a black bowler with brown shoes and grey trousers, the last item as a concessionary measure on sporting occasions. In this attire en route for France "contre les Anglais" at Colombes, he caused a considerable stir among the local population. He did so again at *the Café de Paris* (whither the more prudent members had taken themselves to avoid drinking too much) when relaxing into stertorous slumber just as the girls reached the all-together.

One member resigned because he thought the club was getting too respectable, but Sir Reginald Wilson, a distinguished accountant and business man, was made president to indicate that it was of passable repute. Occasional difficulties remained. In the early days a number of Edinburgh hotels struck the Bloody Men off their visiting lists.

This problem was 'solved' by the discovery of a lady who ran a private unlicensed establishment and brought her own supplies into the kitchen as well as some hostesses, allegedly to control the situation. "To the best of my knowledge," Sir Robert declares, "there was no overt immorality."

The annual general meeting of this extraordinary club is described by the president as being a complete farce. Report and accounts take up two minutes, after which the serious business of the evening is resumed. The annual dinner is held at the RAF Club, the only one of its kind that will have them, although Sir Robert is adamant that this is not so much on account of bad behaviour as because members are very large and rather noisy.

A guest speaker this winter was that renowned West Country orator, M. A. Burton, who brought the house down with one of the less subtle speeches I have heard at a rugby dinner but certainly one of the funniest. His audience included the BM's one lady member, the gracious, much-loved Mollie Gerrard, known as Werlocke, who, as a former president of the Eath Club, knew the likely form.

When asked how he reconciled his extra-curricular activities with his somewhat establishment image, Sir Robert merely observed that he behaved differently on Saturdays.

Peter West

Two more triumphs for the sea rescue teams

Two rescue operations carried out by helicopters in the Irish Sea and the North Sea during the past 48 hours and resulting in the saving of 18 lives have again demonstrated the remarkable state of expertise and organization in the "search and rescue" field around the coasts of the British Isles coupled with those along the Scandinavian and West European coasts.

The rescue of nine out of 12 members of the crew of a Dutch *Atlantique reconnaissance* aircraft between the west of Scotland and Northern Ireland on Thursday was an almost copybook replica of a similar job done by the same rescue unit, No 819 Squadron Royal Navy, at Prestwick more than two years ago when an exactly similar type of Dutch aircraft ditched off the Scottish coast but from which all 14 aircrew were rescued.

A Nimrod to guide

The same combination of good communications and position-pointing resulted in the saving of nine lives on Thursday, with a special factor being the presence overhead of one of the RAF's long range Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft which could guide the rescue helicopters on to a precise position on a very large stretch of very rough sea.

The operation carried out during Thursday night and Friday morning in the totally hostile sea area well to the north east of Shetland, during which another nine lives were saved from a sinking Norwegian fishing vessel, included the same ingredients.

There were excellent radio communications, then good directions from co-ordination bases at Pitreavie near Edinburgh and from Stavanger in Norway which brought four helicopters on top of the seamen in desperate need of help only about three hours after they had broadcast their first "Mayday" message.

Helicopters provided under a special contract between Shell and Bristow Helicopters on the Brent oilfield were first on the scene but they ran into trouble because of the sheer enormity of the seas and blinding blizzards blowing into the pilots' faces, preventing them from carrying out the most difficult flying a helicopter pilot can undertake—an accurate hover.

The launching of rescue facilities from this country and from Scandinavia had already come into effect, however, and just before midnight a Royal Norwegian Air Force Sea King and a similar Sikorsky S-61 provided by the British Airways air-sea rescue base in Shetland, were over the stricken vessel, lighting up the whole desperate scene—which included hurricane force northerly winds and 30ft high waves.

The Norwegian helicopter was the first into action with the British Airways aircraft alongside. The first casualty winched aboard the Norwegian helicopter had to be taken to medical aid quickly because of chest injuries and he was flown to a nearby Norwegian oil rig where there were doctors and hospital facilities available — another pointer to the remarkable safety "cover" which exists over the North Sea in the oil technology age.

Trouble in the blizzard

Earlier, two little Bell 212 helicopters from the Brent Field had had their "high-line" ropes severed by the extreme sea and wind conditions. The British Airways helicopter crew attempted to get a rope down but they were in trouble because blizzards kept blowing in and the pilots could not maintain accurate hovers.

The Norwegian Sea King then came back, having picked up a longer length of rope from the oil rig; it finally picked up the rest of the crew of the trawler, taking them for temporary rest on a rig and then for onward transmission to Bergen.

Eighteen people are alive and well today because of the rescue organizations now aligned around the British Isles and on the western seaboard of Europe. In the same circumstances 10 years ago they would probably all have died.

John Chartres

Why so many people are against flying again at Wisley

Few planning inquiries can have been attended by such potentially serious and far *reaching political consequences* as that which begins next Tuesday in the village hall at Ripley, Surrey. Government witnesses will be faced with some awkward questions, and memories are being evoked of the notorious Crichel Down case of more than a quarter of a century ago.

The inquiry concerns an appeal by Jenstate Ltd against the refusal by Guildford Borough Council to grant permission for the former Wisley airfield to be reopened for aviation. County, district and parish authorities are unanimously opposed to the project, and are backed by a large number of local residents who fear that their tranquil corner of the Green Belt would be despoiled by the noise of up to 30,000 aircraft movements a year.

The issues are not confined to local amenity. They go back to the Second World War, when 270 acres of what was then farmland were requisitioned under emergency regulations for use as a base for testing military aircraft. Ministers of the day gave assurances that the airfield would remain only so long as hostilities continued, and that it would subsequently be restored for agricultural use.

However, the land was conveniently situated for the post-war aircraft *industry in* the area, notably the Vickers plant at Weybridge. Not only was *permission granted for its* continued use for testing, but in 1951 a concrete runway, one and a quarter miles long, was constructed to replace the former grass strip.

In 1964 the company, which had by then become part of the British Aircraft Corporation, applied for a further extension of the airfield's life. Permission was duly granted, with a repeat of the proviso that, once they were no longer required, the runway and all the buildings should be removed and the land returned to agriculture. By that time the local authorities had agreed, somewhat unwillingly, to the temporary closure of rights of way on the understanding that they would in due course be reopened.

In 1972 BAC made it known that it no longer required the airfield. The authorities asked the Ministry of Defence what it intended to do about the removal of the runway and buildings and received further assurances that the work would begin shortly. But two years later the Earl of Lytton, who under the so-called Crichel Down procedure had first option to buy the land, submitted an application for its use for intensive livestock rearing. Since his plans envisaged use of the existing installations, the Government was able to claim that it was prevented from *demolishing* them.

After another two years, *Lord Lytton's application* was rejected on appeal. This time the Government said it would remove the hangars, but that to dig the runway up would be too expensive. Guildford council retorted that, on the contrary, it had been in touch with a big contractor who was prepared to *pay* £20,000 to be allowed to break up the runway and clear away the rubble, which would provide valuable hard core for road construction.

In June, 1977, Mr Kenneth Marks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Environment and the minister responsible for the Government's Property Services Agency, wrote to Sir George Sinclair, then Conservative MP for Dorking, to say that tenders would be invited for removal of the runway as soon as the buildings had been cleared. The buildings were demolished but, despite further assurances from PSA officials, the runway remained.

In 1979 an application was submitted by a company called Jenstate Ltd *for the use of the* airfield for general aviation purposes. Guildford council requested further information, which was not forthcoming, and the company duly appealed against what it said was the council's deemed refusal. For its part, the Government said that it could not now proceed with demolition of the runway, *as that* might prejudice the outcome of the appeal.

At about the same time the PSA informed Surrey County Council that it proposed to offer the airfield to Lord Lytton "under the Crichel Down Code", complete with the runway. The council angrily protested that this was contrary to all the undertakings that had been given, and it asked that, before any transactions were entered into, it should be given first option to purchase.

To its astonishment, in June last year it received a letter from the PSA in which the writer said he could not confirm that the land would be offered to the council, because the agency had already sold it to Lord Lytton. The following month Mr Keith Wickenden, the present MP for Dorking, moved an adjournment debate in the Commons in which he declared that, in a shabby story, this last action was the most disgraceful example of sharp practice that he had come across.

The Government refused to disclose the purchase price, and it *was left to Lord Lytton* to inform readers of *The Daily Telegraph* that the figure was £307,000, which represented the agricultural value of the land, without planning permission or any so-called "hope" element. Lord Lytton also disclaimed any interest in Jenstate, but earlier this month he admitted that he would be a shareholder in a company which would be set up to operate the airport if permis*sion were granted.*

Mr. Neil McGregor-Wood, chairman of Oakham Parish Council and vice-chairman of Stop Wisley Airport (SWAT), sees four main objections to the airport scheme: it would fly in the face of all previous government undertakings; it would be an intrusion into the Green Belt and a violation of the county structure plan; because of its proximity to Heathrow and Gatwick, it would endanger air safety; and it would engender unacceptable extra road traffic.

The Department of Transport has already said it will oppose the scheme on traffic grounds, and the Civil Aviation Authority, although it has not yet committed itself, is thought to be unhappy about further congestion of air space.

But it is the extraordinary reluctance of successive governments to honour commitments made nearly 40 years ago that is likely to dominate the inquiry. As a local newspaper, the *Surrey Daily Advertiser*, asked in a recent leading article, "Why is Wisley Airfield so important an issue to the Government that it will break promises, ignore compromises and try to put the local council in the wrong?" Perhaps next week it will tell us.

John Young
Planning Reporter

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A TOUGH YEAR FOR EVERYONE

The latest set of economic indicators confirm the broad pattern which emerged towards the end of last year. The precipitate decline in output of the summer of 1980 shows some signs of abating but there is no immediate prospect of any sustained recovery. Some of the forces which led to a decline last year, such as the need to run down stocks, may be less in evidence during 1981 but there are disturbing signs for other factors, such as our exports. On balance, the industrial sector will continue to be under pressure during the remainder of the year.

There are also likely to be further disturbing increases in the level of unemployment, something which was referred to by the Employment Secretary, Mr James Prior, yesterday. Although Ministers feel that the worst is now over for output and that there is still encouraging news ahead on inflation, there can be no doubt that there will be severe economic difficulties for some time to come.

The greatest problem facing the Government remains something over which it has limited control and whose movement no one has been able to predict accurately. The high parity of sterling is imposing severe strain on the manufacturing sector of the economy. Although it has beneficial effects on the inflation rate, sterling's high value is exerting a severely depressive effect on the economy.

There are already signs that demand for consumer goods is being switched to imports because of their price advantage. The volume of exports is beginning to decline and the profits on which the future investment of industrialists depends have been severely eroded. The Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated in a written answer in the House of Commons yesterday (Friday) that he would consider shifting some of the burden of taxation from the corporate to the personal sector in his forthcoming Budget. He would be right to do so.

The Prime Minister rightly stresses that a country must live within its means. Yet well into the autumn of last year, personal living standards were rising at a time when national output was falling. This could not go on indefinitely. There are, fortunately, signs that during the current pay round the level of settlements is more realistically aligned with companies' ability to pay than it was in the first year after the Government took office.

That alone will not, in all probability be sufficient to deal with the problems faced by the manufacturing sector. It does not, in any case, deal adequately with the burdens imposed on the manufacturing sector by the rising exchange rate. There is a danger that North Sea oil, by driving up the value of the pound, could actually cause a reduction in our national wealth rather than an increase.

The Chancellor ought thus to pay sympathetic attention to the arguments in favour of helping the corporate sector at the expense of the personal sector. He would, however, be wrong to make any such action the excuse for pumping extra demand into the economy. Although the progress in reducing inflation is encouraging, other aspects of the Government's policy have gone less well. The money supply has grown more quickly than the Government's target in spite of unprecedentedly high interest rates. The level of public borrowing gives severe cause for concern. No one knows just how large the borrowing requirement will turn out to be this year, but it will clearly be significantly higher than the Chancellor forecast last November, which in turn was higher than expected in his Budget speech.

In terms of both money supply and public borrowing the current financial year has to be largely written off. That provides no reason for giving up on the Government's medium-term plan for restoring financial stability to the economy. The targets for monetary growth during the forthcoming financial year contained in the medium-term strategy are restrictive, but not excessively so.

The levels for public borrowing implied by that strategy, which would suggest total borrowing next financial year of around £7,000m, cannot be achieved without administering a further sharp round of tax increases to the economy. There is, however, a strong case against sharp tax increases, particularly in a recession, since the level of private sector loan demand will be depressed. A borrowing requirement of £9,000m or £10,000m should still be consistent with the Government's targets on monetary growth.

The Chancellor should be able to hold public borrowing to this level with only a small increase in the net burden of taxation above that which he announced in November. He will, however, have to raise taxes on the personal sector to pay for any assistance which he gives to industry. In doing this he has a choice between increasing taxes on spending and increasing those on income. The balance ought to be weighted on this occasion towards taxes on income, though in a way which has as little disincentive effect as possible.

Increasing Value added Tax would have an unnecessarily damaging effect on prospects for reducing inflation. It would be better to give a smaller increase in the value of personal allowances than is implied by straightforward indexation in line with inflation. This would have no effect on the marginal rate of tax which most people pay, which is the important factor in looking at the problem of incentives.

The prospect thus ought to be of a rather quiet Budget in terms of the overall level of demand, but significant steps to shift the pattern of the flow of funds within the personal sector. Individuals will have to take more of the strain. The Government cannot hope that this will make it popular in the year ahead, since the result will be to depress living standards. Yet if the longer term recovery of the economy needed to reduce unemployment is to occur, such a shift must take place. The Chancellor should explain that clearly in the months ahead.

A GOOD START FOR MR HAIG

The overwhelming vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of Mr Haig's nomination as Secretary of State gets him off to a good start. At one time it had been thought that he would have difficulty in getting Senate approval because of his association with President Nixon at the time of Watergate. But though Watergate came up in the questioning, and was cited by the two senators who voted against him as grounds for their withholding their approval, it did not affect the very favourable impression that Mr Haig gave the committee. He appeared knowledgeable and assured, while showing the political sensibility that he will need in his dealings both with foreign countries and in the world of Washington politics.

No one has ever doubted Mr Haig's intelligence or his driving ambition. He first became known to the public when, as a relatively junior general, he worked for Dr Kissinger in the National Security Council; he became Mr Nixon's chief of staff during the last, difficult days of the Nixon presidency, and was subsequently appointed Supreme Allied Commander for Europe. So he has knowledge both of the working of Washington and of the pressures of European politics. The question has been whether his own lack of political experience—he has never stood for election himself—and the lingering aura of Watergate would limit his effectiveness.

On the evidence of this week's hearings, they will not. It is even possible that Mr Haig will succeed in combining an informed view of the outside world with political clout in Washington, something that Mr Vance, for instance, never achieved. Certainly there is every likelihood that he, as Secretary of State, will be in charge of American foreign policy, rather than Mr Reagan's national security adviser.

As the content of foreign policy, Mr Haig showed that it will primarily be concerned with what he called "perhaps the central strategic phenomenon of the post-World War II era: the transformation of Soviet military power from a continental and largely defensive land army to a global offensive army, navy and air force fully capable of supporting an imperial foreign policy". He spoke of the declining military capabilities of the United States and the West in general, and the need to build them up again. But throughout the hearings he was extremely careful not to seem to be putting undue pressure on American allies, in Europe and in Japan, to increase arms spending. There was no reason for the United States to take a superior attitude, he said. The need to improve military posture applied to everyone, just as there was a need for all those with like interests to work together.

Mr Haig also showed a welcome awareness that the Third World should not be treated as an undifferentiated whole. Recent American policy, he said, had suffered from a misperception which lumped together wholly diverse countries. There must be some doubts, on the other hand, about his intentions in the human rights area, or at least the way he expressed them this week. He plainly intended to signal a change of policy from that of the Carter Administration, and evoked the danger of "replacing friendly governments which incompletely satisfy our standards of democracy with hostile ones which are even less benign". The human rights policy of the Carter period has certainly had its failings, but there is more to it than that.

All in all, Mr Haig appeared as a tough-minded policy-maker, but less of a hawk than some Democrats had feared. If he succeeds in imprinting his views on American foreign policy, it will be both coherent and rational, which is something to be welcomed by America's friends, as well as the rest of the world.

Scientific thinking

From Sir Charles Pereira, FRS

Sir, In the past three years I have encountered much interest overseas in the British experiment, instigated by Lord Rothschild, in the administration of public funds for science. This proposed the injection of scientific thinking and research experience at the senior levels of public administration.

For agriculture, the 1972 White Paper (Cmnd 5046) prescribed the transfer of more than half of the funds of the Agricultural Research Council to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This left the council, as one member wryly remarked, "a minority shareholder in its own house", but the change was balanced by the recruitment to the Ministry of a chief scientist, at deputy secretary level, with authority to commission research and development programmes both within the ministry and with the council and other external contractors.

The chief scientist was also responsible for scientific advice to the minister and for assistance to the permanent secretary on the opportunities for better use of science in the three major industries involved.

With a small chief scientists' group the immediate tasks were of finding out, for the first time, the extent and adequacy of the public resources deployed for research and development in the many specific problems and of consultations with leaders of the industries on their needs.

The more difficult task of the chief scientist was to improve the balance and coordination between the immediate "trouble-shooting" investigations called for by the farming community and the longer-term studies of causes and mechanisms which provide the essential ammunition for trouble-shooting.

Substantial costs are involved, in which some £40m per annum of taxpayers' money is much less than the costs of missing or delaying opportunities to improve productivity and competitiveness within the Common Market.

The recent announcement (*The Times*, January 4) of a decision to abolish the chief scientist's post at deputy secretary level in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, while still retaining the funds originally transferred, will be seen by scientists in Britain, and overseas, as a move by the generalists of the Civil Service to exclude scientists from the upper policy level of administration of research and development funds. It is very evident in Brussels that this is not the policy of our more successful EEC partners.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PEREIRA,
Peartrees,
Fairlawn,
Teston,
Kent.
January 12.

Marital conciliation

From Mrs Lisa Parkinson

Sir, The divorce rate in England and Wales is higher than in any other Common Market country, and we agree with Trevor Berry (Social Focus, January 7) that a legal process which grants divorces by the thousand, without encouraging divorcing parents to reach agreed decisions concerning their children, is irresponsible.

Whereas a marriage certificate costs £13, a petitioner with a "disposable" income of up to £50 per week can obtain a divorce for a maximum payment of £5. Legal aid for matrimonial disputes costs £30-£40m per year (if both parties are legally aided the average cost per case is now £800). An even higher price is paid by children, who may endure prolonged conflict, ended only by complete loss of contact with one parent.

Innovatory work in Bristol shows that much destructive litigation can be avoided if both parties engage, separately or jointly, in confidential discussions with a conciliator. There is an acute need for conciliation at the time of separation, as well as at the later stage of divorce proceedings.

Many solicitors refer clients to the Bristol Conciliation Service and lawyers were closely involved in setting it up. The combination of the neutral mediating role of the conciliator (qualified in marital and family work) and the legal expertise of the solicitor (who provides legal advice but does not attend the discussions) benefits the families concerned, and avoids contested court proceedings.

No government department has so far accepted responsibility for developing family conciliation services. The Bristol service will close in 1982 and valuable experience will be lost, unless immediate action is taken by all those concerned about family life in this country, and the needs of children.

Yours faithfully,
LISA PARKINSON, Coordinator,
Bristol Courts Family Conciliation Service,
Commercial Rooms Box No 101,
59 Broad Street,
Bristol.

Farewell to Blackwood's

From Mr C. J. L. Elwell

Sir, Elizabeth Barrett was another distinguished contributor to *Blackwood's* (letter, January 14). Her poem, "The Cry of the Children", was first published in the magazine in August, 1843.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. L. ELWELL,
Bottrells Close,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire.
January 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conflicting attitudes on activities of Opus Dei

From Mrs Hilda Marlin

Sir, Your profile of Opus Dei (January 12) astonished me greatly. I have known the movement for over twenty years, though I am not a member. I have attended services, retreats and lectures, and have made personal friends in Washington, Montreal, Dublin, Manchester, London and Nairobi. I always found the atmosphere peaceful and pleasant, the girls natural, spontaneous and dedicated. I also noticed that they were happy. They are always busy, they work hard to make their environment artistic and beautiful by their own efforts, they have good manners and they dress modestly and becomingly. I have noticed no signs of hysteria or exaggerated practices. Nor do I get the feeling of secrecy, though they do maintain that it is better to work through example than with words. I have noticed no megalomania, though there is a natural desire to see their movement grow. I have never heard them speak in any way against the Church or advocate any doctrine that is peculiar or revolutionary. Their way of life is based on the idea that one can earn one's salvation simply by doing one's daily task, one's chosen profession, well. When one does one's work for the love of God it will be well done and sanctify the doer. That is why it is called "Opus Dei".

When the Franciscans first started they were considered very dangerous. They went against the prevailing spirit of luxury. We now know that they were a rejuvenating movement within the Church. I think the same will be said of Opus Dei: it is counteracting the present spirit of working only when you are paid well for it and then doing as little as possible. Opus Dei believes in working for love. It may be a very necessary doctrine.

Yours etc,
HILDA MARLIN,
8 Castle Hill,
Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr J. D. Barber

Sir, I refer to Mr Harry Biggs-Davison's letter of January 12. Mr Biggs-Davison may think that it is worthy of mention that Opus Dei run boys' clubs and homes around the various halls of residence attached to the universities of London, Manchester and Oxford but I feel that he is missing the point.

As someone who has had first hand experience of the way in which Opus Dei operate, I feel that we should regard these activities with suspicion.

My first six weeks at university were spent at an Opus Dei hall of residence in which I found that every effort was made to impose the standards of Opus Dei upon students who had applied to the hall in complete ignorance. The standards expected were only outlined during one's first week at the hall and awkward questions were simply ignored.

The most dangerous aspect of the work of Opus Dei is its insidious nature. Young boys are always impressionable and respond readily to the image of a hero. The article in Monday's *Times* stated that a youngster could start his training at the age of fourteen which is still a very impressionable age.

In my view the complete divorce of the male side of the organization from the female side of the organization is unnatural and is unnaturally maintained in the halls of residence to the extent that residents are simply not allowed to see females. Residents were expected to vacate the hall between the hours of 10 and 12 in the morning and at mealtimes contact with the kitchen staff was by means of a small hatch cut into the wall at a level of two feet so that if one wanted to see a female one would have to contort one's self in a quite ridiculous manner.

The fact alone of running a boys' club and the like is, as Mr Biggs-Davison says, quite laudable but one should always look to the ends in sight when considering such things and, unfortunately, in the case of Opus Dei those ends are slightly suspect.

Yours, etc,
JOHN D. BARBER,
London, E1.
January 14.

From Mrs Anne Scott

Sir, My late husband was one of the first married Englishmen to join Opus Dei after its arrival in this country, and consequently I have been in close touch with its women's section for 20 years. At no time have I found it secretive, but have always been urged to spread the news of its days of recollection, retreats, and talks on doctrinal subjects to all and sundry.

On the basis of this long experience I can confidently say that the lack of sympathy which Messrs Longley and van der Vat obviously felt for the subject of their investigation has led them to misunderstand and misrepresent one of the main themes preached by Opus Dei, that of "divine filiation".

I must have heard that phrase hundreds of times, and each time, without any exception, it was applied to the relationship between each individual soul and the God who created it out of a love whose nearest analogy in human terms (however inadequate) is "parental".

Mgr Escriva insisted again and again that the Christian approach to God should be full of the trusting and confident love of a young child for its father, and that the best way to pray is with the simplicity and sincerity of a young child speaking to its father. This is what he meant by "divine filiation" and this is what his followers continue to mean by it.

They naturally regarded him, and now cherish his memory, with affection and veneration; they believe that he was a saint and would like to see him proclaimed as one by the Church. But it is simply a blunder to confuse this affection and this desire with the "divine filiation" which they recommend as something which should be present in the consciousness of all Christians.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE SCOTT,
24 Southmoor Road,
Oxford.
January 14.

From Mrs B. Strange

Sir, I am writing as a mother whose daughter for the past six years has been a member of the Opus Dei sect. She was not a Catholic when she joined the movement as a student in London, and was invited to live in one of their hostels. My fears and doubts about the movement over the six years have now been confirmed by Dr John Roche (article, January 12).

My daughter has been completely indoctrinated and her whole personality has changed. I have not seen her for nearly two years, and I now know why, when I read that no holidays are allowed once an "associate" becomes part of the regimented workings of a house or hostel.

She gave up her full-time profession and is now working for the movement as an "associate", doing the menial tasks in a house, which Dr Roche so adequately describes.

I still pray that I may be able to rescue her from the devious workings of this horrific movement, but unfortunately she is so completely under their spell that I now fear for her welfare and future happiness. The features of the movement which have been described by Dr Roche are even worse than I feared, but I have certainly for many years now felt that there was an extremely strong hysterical element in the so-called worship of Mgr Jose Maria Escriva, the founder.

There must be other parents like myself with daughters being similarly "used", and I hope and pray that as a result of Dr Roche's revelation we may be able to rescue our misguided children from the clutches of this most devious body of people. I have tried many times in the past to do this, of course, but in view of the events of the past two days I shall leave no stone unturned to make one final bid to give my daughter a chance of leading a normal and fulfilling life before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
B. STRANGE,
Lodore,
3 Campion Rise,
Greenhills,
Tavistock,
Devon.
January 14.

From Miss Jacki Coutinho

Sir, I have been a student for two and a half years at a sixth-form college, run by the members of Opus Dei. I was greatly angered and saddened by your article on Opus Dei (January 12) as it reflected something quite contrary to the behaviour of the members who work at the college.

I would like to stress that far from being psychologically unbalanced, as was implied in *The Times*, the members provide a marvellous and happy environment in the college for both the students and the staff. Many of the staff have in fact commented that they have never experienced such a cheerful and diligent atmosphere in previous schools they have taught in.

I therefore feel that it is a great shame that *The Times* can devote so much time to unjustly criticizing Opus Dei which, as I and numerous others have experienced, has given and will continue to give many people a lot of happiness and a solid Christian education.

Yours faithfully,
JACKI COUTINHO,
13 Merton Avenue,
Chiswick, W4.
January 14.

From Dr W. I. Adams

Sir, In answer to the comment in the profile of Opus Dei (January 12) "*Cronica* does not use proselytism to refer to gaining converts to Christianity or Catholicism", I was so impressed by the example of the members of Opus Dei in their everyday practice of the Catholic faith that I became a convert seven years ago. I am now an ordinary, but happy, wife, mother and recently qualified doctor, who still looks to Opus Dei for encouragement in my practice of Catholicism.

Yours faithfully,
WENDY I. ADAMS,
49a Becmead Avenue,
Streatham, SW16.

Growing threat to small woodlands

From Mr Charles Watkins

Sir, I read with interest your report (January 5) describing the "insidious and damaging" loss of trees in the countryside. At present, the system of felling licences goes some way towards ensuring the replacement of existing small woodlands and spinneys when felled. However, the recent review of Forestry Commission administration produced under the auspices of Sir Derek Rayner suggests that the felling of small detached woods of less that 0.25 ha (0.6 acre) should no longer require a licence.

This simplification of administrative procedure will have the effect of considerably increasing the vulnerability of small woodlands and result in the further loss of trees in the countryside.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WATKINS,
Senior Common Room,
Hugh Stewart Hall,
University Park,
Nottingham.
January 6.

From Mr Donald Sims

Sir, Mr Stoddart (January 9) leaves confusion worse confounded. To quote Bean once more, the sweet chestnut "is supposed to have been introduced to Britain by the Romans and certainly existed in our islands previous to the Norman conquest", and the sycamore, also "possibly a Roman introduction", has been with us "for many centuries". It seems odd, to say the least, to list these with grey alder (introduced in 1780) and southern beech (not before 1830).

Sweet chestnut is abundant on acid soils in southern England and is the predominant species in much of the coppice woodland of Kent and Sussex, and sycamore (the plane tree of Scotland) is the commonest (and for wind shelter the most valuable) species in much of the north of England. To regard these species as "non-native trees acceptable only as a small proportion in planting schemes" is surely unjustifiable, particularly in areas where they have for centuries been among the commonest species, and it only makes matters worse to learn that such advice comes from the Countryside Commission, since they really should know better.

Tree planting in the countryside certainly needs to be in sympathy with existing landscapes, and tree species need to be selected with care and understanding, but the description "non-native" seems to me positively unhelpful if thereby we exclude from general planting tree species that have been with us since Roman times.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD SIMS,
The Green,
Foxton,
Cambridge.

Double vision

From Sir Willie Morris

Sir, The aptest comment on Dr Kissinger's "scathing attack" in Jerusalem (report, January 7) on the European initiative for a Middle East settlement seems to me to come from *The Troubled Partnership*, by Professor H. A. Kissinger, published in the 1960s:

"If we face the fact that the interests of Europe and the United States are not identical, it may be possible to agree on a permissible range of divergence . . ."

"American policy has been extremely ambivalent: it has urged European unity while recoiling before its probable consequences . . . the United States will have to reconcile itself to the fact that no matter what structure emerges in Europe, a difference in perspective with the United States is probable, particularly about policies outside Europe. A wise policy will try to mitigate the impact of this difference; it will not be able to remove it."

Yours faithfully,
WILLIE MORRIS,
2 Abberbury Avenue,
Iffley,
Oxford.
January 9.

The value of music

From Professor Peter Wishart

Sir, Few people seem to have grasped the real damage to the future of our nation which would result from throwing music out of the curricular window (letters, December 22 and 27, January 2, 3, 7 and 8).

It is simply that music, along with the other arts, and indeed gardening, woodwork and other creative "leisure activities", will become increasingly important in a silicon chip world with far more leisure time, early retirement and the other results of overpopulation (in the context of an increased life expectation). I have not forgotten sport as a leisure activity, but in most cases that becomes passive in early middle age.

The human soul is at risk, and this is even more important than our export earnings from music, our national reputation and so on.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WISHART,
University of Reading,
Department of Music,
35 Upper Redlands Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.
January 15.

The lady vanishes

From Mr A. K. Galloway

Sir, "It is believed that Lady Diana . . . travelled incognito on a train from London to King's Lynn" (report, January 15).

How one would have liked more details of this extraordinary feat. Was Lady Diana able to buy a ticket without having to tell the booking clerk her name? Did British Rail not have enough time to fix a large board to the train announcing that she was a passenger? Or did Lady Diana simply refrain from opening the compartment window at every station and shouting her name?

Please can we be told?

Yours, etc,
A. K. GALLOWAY,
36 Veda Road, SE13.
January 15.

Deflated importance

From Mr Philip Mair

Sir, It is very disappointing to a Liberal to see in your report of David Steel's 10 points (report, January 13) no mention of the canker inflation. To criticize the present Government neither solves nor dissolves the problem. Until the Liberal Party states how it would aim to control and reduce the rate of inflation it cannot avoid the gibe that it is a party of unpractical idealists unable or unwilling to face awkward reality.

Yours, etc,
PHILIP MAIR,
12 Clifton Terrace,
Brighton.
January 14.

University election

From Mr Alec Bristow

Sir, Bernard Levin (January 8) exhibits a remarkable double standard in his attitude to elections. Charitably ignoring his personal remarks about two of the nominees for the London University chancellorship and their supporters, may one ask why he thinks it wrong for the Russians to hold elections with only one candidate but right for London University to do so? His assertion that "The argument for electing Princess Anne is the same as the argument for having a monarchy at all" is manifestly false. The Monarch is not elected; the Chancellor is.

There may be a case for making the chancellorship hereditary, like the monarchy; but while it remains subject to election surely the election should be a genuine one—ie unlike totalitarian versions it should offer voters a choice.

Yours sincerely,
ALEC BRISTOW,
The Grange,
Thwaite,
Eye,
Suffolk.

From Mr Colin Croskin

Sir, Surely one of the better qualified persons to be Chancellor of London University is Madame Mao. As effectively a Dowager Empress she is a royal. Like Nelson Mandela she is in jail and like Jack Jones she is a radical socialist and about 68. She therefore has similar qualities to the present three contenders put together. Above all Madame Mao has that subtle quality of considered argumentation which we have come to associate with the intellectual left.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN CROSKIN,
25 Springfield Crescent,
High Bentham,
North Yorkshire.
January 10.

Aid for Afghanistan

From Sir Olaf Caroe

Sir, Professor Louis Dupree (January 7) is probably now more conversant with the forces behind Afghan affairs than any of us, even those who served on the North-West Frontier, and it is good to see that he does not confine his conclusions to verbal dialectics, but even recommends action in the form of supply of weaponry to the Afghan *mujahidin*. Yet it is pertinent to enter a caveat under two heads:

1 How would armaments reach the Afghan resistance? President Zia—my letter of December 6, 1980 (in which the word *flank* in a Chinese context was misprinted *blank*)—is too tied to a courteous evasion to cooperate. Since the 1947 partition Pakistan in this field is a broken reed, and weapons could not be sent through Iran.

2 There are of course differences, but the arming of Afghan patriots against Russia would be uncomfortably reminiscent of American policy in Iran over the past 20 years or so—a policy which led to the downfall of the Shah. Moreover, should the Russians, facing also dissidence in Europe, feel embattled, they would be tempted to break out, with results likely to be appalling both to themselves and to the free world.

Despite apparent leanings towards Moscow, perhaps inherited from the visit of her father, Nehru, to that capital 25 years ago, Mrs Gandhi seems to stand alone among political leaders in Asia and Europe in maintaining at least a semblance of balance between East and West, North and South. This is odd but true. Her influence might be more effective in the search for peace than Western sanctions or any imaginary "resurgence of Islam".

Yours faithfully,
OLAF CAROE,
Newham House,
Steyning,
Sussex.

From Mr Ron Brown, MP for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Labour) and others

Sir, You have misled your readers in the caption you provided to our photograph (January 14). The tank has nothing whatsoever to do with the Soviet arrival in Afghanistan in December, 1979; and neither is it a Soviet tank.

It is a memorial erected in central Kabul to the April, 1978 revolution in that country.

Yours sincerely,
RON BROWN,
R. K. LITHERLAND,
ALLAN ROBERTS,
House of Commons.
January 15.

SOE in the Balkans

From Brigadier E. C. W. Myers

Sir, I hope that you will not let the subject of the desirability of a long overdue official history of the Special Operations Executive in the Balkans rest with the assertion by Major Chalmers-Wright (January 8) that the surviving Balkan agents "should be allowed, if they so wish, to keep secret their secret individual achievements". Surely few will agree with this. Certainly their identities should be kept secret if this is their wish or if publication might harm them or their families. But why so their achievements?

In view of the green light having recently been given to a history of SOE in the Far East, this sort of reason for secrecy seems unlikely to be the one why, until all the Balkan participants are dead, the authorities apparently refuse to allow any historian access to the relevant SOE archives and to the few remaining important but as yet unreleased Foreign Office papers, to enable the full story of SOE in the Balkans to be written.

Perhaps the real reason for the Government's refusal hitherto is the Foreign Office's wish to avoid giving further publicity to the unfortunate mistakes of some of their predecessors in senior positions during World War II, as revealed in Richard Clogg's and Phyllis Auty's joint publication, *British Policy towards Wartime Resistance in Yugoslavia and Greece* (Macmillan, 1975).

Yours faithfully,
EDDIE MYERS,
Wheatsheaf House,
Broadwell,
Moreton-in-Marsh,
Gloucestershire.

Stopping the rot

From Professor P. G. Forrester

Sir, Mr Derek Robinson is reported in your issue of January 12 to have said that "determined and united action by the working class was required to halt the decline of manufacturing industry".

His realistic appraisal of the situation is most heartening. Unless all workers, including managers, unite to attack the causes of the decline, such as overmanning, restrictive practices and unearned pay increases, the decline will indeed continue.

Mr Robinson's support for such unified and determined action is exceedingly welcome.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. FORRESTER,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 10, 17 and 24, March 3, 10 and 24, and July 22 and 28, and at Holyroodhouse on July 7.

The Queen will open the Hanover Housing Association and the Guinness Trust Housing Development at Dersingham, Norfolk, on January 26.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, in Zurich, on January 23.

Birthdays today

Lord Boardman, 62; Sir Michael Clapham, 69; Mr Douglas Cleverdon, 78; Mr Martin Cooper, 71; Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd, 79; Sir Keith Joseph, MP, 63; Miss Moira Shearer, 55; Professor Sir David Smithers, 73; Lord Wheatley, 73.

TOMORROW: Lord Bowden, 71; Mr Cary Grant, 77; Sir James Henderson, 80; Air Marshal Sir Leslie Mavor, 65; Lord Seebohm, 72; Sir Michael Stewart, 70.

US ballet honoured

The Royal Society of Arts has awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal for 1981 to Lincoln Kirstein, director of the School of American Ballet, New York City Ballet Company.

Church unity as the inspiration for a wider ecumenism

Another Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins next week. Those who have participated on previous occasions may well reflect that many of their prayers have been answered. While little full institutional reunion has been achieved in Britain, relations between the churches have been transformed and working towards unity has become established policy. Yet the very success of cooperation has brought a decline of enthusiasm. The closer churches have drawn together, the clearer it has become that the problems they have in common do not differ significantly from those they faced in isolation.

This makes it timely to remember that the ecumenical movement means more than efforts to promote inter-church cooperation with a view to eventual reunion. In its formative period, leading to the establishment of the World Council of Churches in 1948, it arose out of a fresh insight into basic Christian faith, which led churches to a deeper *understanding of their world*-wide mission and called their attention to *neglected aspects* of that mission. It was primarily a movement for theological and social renewal.

This gave a powerful impetus to efforts to achieve reunion but the early ecumenical leaders never regarded union as an end in itself. They knew that, without fresh insight, it might even intensify the difficulties in the way of renewal. All the broken parts of the Christian community stand under divine judgment. Merely to piece together one or two of them without internal transformation might result only in making a larger and more awkward fragment, and the effort to do so could distract Christians from more urgent tasks.

That the effort has proved so difficult among the slow-moving British churches suggests the need for a revision of ecumenical priorities. The publication of the proposals for a covenant relation between the Church of England and some of the Free Churches, which manages only to offer a formula for the mutual legitimizing of their professional ministries, confirms this need. Churches *must* continue to struggle towards institutional reunion, and this will inevitably involve much detailed negotiation, but even this effort is likely to be more effective if more attention is paid to the larger issues which their ecumenical mission raises.

To give examples. In its inception, the European Community owed more than is now usually realized to leaders of the ecumenical movement. What can be said from a Christian point of view about the way *which the Community has* developed, especially now that Britain is a member? The main focus of the World Council has shifted recently from Europe and North America to the east and south. In view of their remarkable missionary history, have the British churches still anything distinctive to offer, especially in the light of the Islamic revival and the political changes which have taken place in Africa and Asia? On our domestic level, have enough sustained efforts even yet been made to resolve theological differences between the churches over other matters than those concerning ministerial status? Has discussion of reunion itself been preoccupied too much with the internal relations of churches with each other and not enough with their responsibilities in the community as a whole? Ecumenical insight suggests that we are unlikely to hear a fresh word about the renewal of the churches themselves unless we try to hear a fresh word about the renewal of the wider community of which they are a part.

Modern communications *have unified* the world as never before. In consequence, ecumenical movements of a sort have arisen in science and the arts and sport and popular entertainment and even in industry, as well as in the more obvious sphere of international relations. The churches should see *their own ecumenical* movement as the precursor of these and recognize that, if their Christian claim is to be justified, they must continue to show that it is possible to become worldwide and to dispose of great resources without becoming arrogant, exploitative and competitive on levels where competition is inappropriate. They will recognize that the greater the concentration of power the greater the possibility of corruption and, therefore, the more essential the need for self-criticism and restraint. They will also know that, since creative movements begin in a small way, large-scale activities, involving many participants with widely differing interests, do well to be unpretentious and realistic in the expectations they arouse. To be truly ecumenical means not to try to join the star-studded circuit of international celebrities but to show how, in the presence of the kingdoms of this world and all the glory of them, including their television cameras, it is yet possible to have the form of a servant. As long as the churches understand ecumenism in this way, *they are not likely to suffer any* decline of enthusiasm when they find their prayers for greater unity being answered.

Daniel Jenkins
Minister, Regent Square United Reformed Church

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. G. Leslie and Miss S. K. Granville
The engagement is *announced* between Nicholas, son of Mr J. M. M. Leslie, FRCS, and Mrs Leslie, of Foleswortb, Leicestershire, and Sarah Kate, youngest daughter of Sir Keith and Lady Granville, of Château-d'Oex, Switzerland.

Mr H. E. Brown and Miss C. J. Milne
The engagement is announced of Harry, son of Mr and Mrs Harry S. Brown, of Krugersdorp, Transvaal, South Africa, and Claire Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Milne, of Westbury, Old Lane, St John's, Crowborough, Sussex.

Dr C. R. J. Currie and Miss K. R. Gommon
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr G. S. Currie and the late Mrs G. S. Currie, of Colwall, near Malvern, Worcestershire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. E. Gommon, of Hardingstone, Northamptonshire.

Mr D. J. W. Dundas and Miss A. J. Thompson
The engagement is announced between David James William, son of the late Lieutenant-Commander W. J. Dundas, RN, and Mrs S. E. Dundas, of 17 The Parade, Truro, Cornwall, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. E. Thompson, of Sheepwalks Farm, Swinderby, Lincoln.

Mr B. Keen and Miss S. Curtis
The engagement is announced between Benjamin Keen, of 110 Benhams Drive, Horley, Surrey, and Susan, daughter of Mr L. F. Curtis, BEM, and Mrs Curtis, of Purbeck, 15 Longbridge Walk, Horley, Surrey.

Mr D. M. Pepper and Miss S. A. Blood
The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs D. J. Pepper, of Hard Cottage, Swanwick Shore, Hampshire, and Sara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. Blood, of Hall Field Cottage, Sproughton, Suffolk.

Mr L. V. Powell and Miss D. A. Tyler
The engagement is announced between Leslie Vernon Powell, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Doris Alethea Tyler, of Ewell, Surrey.

Marriage

Captain H. G. R. Boscawen and Miss A. M-M. Eden
The marriage took place yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, between Captain Hugh Boscawen, Coldstream Guards, son of the Hon Robert and Mrs Boscawen, and Miss Alexandra Eden, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Eden.

Today's engagements

West London Antiques Fair, last day, Kensington new Town Hall, 11 to 6.
European Chess Cup: King's Head v Budapest Spartacus, Columbia Hotel, 95 Lancaster Gate, Bayswater, 2 to 7.
Southern Dachshund Association show, Picketts Lock Centre, Enfield, 9 to 6.
Talks: "Constable and the English landscape tradition", by Deborah Froome, 12; "Early eighteenth-century English furniture", by Wellesley Clinton, 3, both Victoria and Albert Museum; Leger, by Laurence Bradbury, Tate Gallery, 3; "A burial in a dugout boat", 11.30, and "The Sumerians", 2.30, both by David Williams, British Museum; "French eighteenth-century portraits", by Audrey Tyndall, National Gallery, 12.
Exhibitions: The Royal Society of Printmakers, Etchers and Engravers, Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, 10 to 5; abstract art, Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery, 9 to 7; art from Africa, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, 10 to 4.30; *twentieth-century* British art from Leeds City Art Gallery, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, 10 to 5.30.
Walks: History trail, lost London, meet Moorgate station, 11; Shakespeare's and Dickens's Southwark, meet Monument station, 2.

Tomorrow

European Chess Cup, Columbia Hotel, Bayswater, 11, final day.
Antiques fair, Strand Palace Hotel, 11 to 6.
Collectors' fair, Ivanhoe Hotel, Bloomsbury Street, 1 to 6.
Talks: "It's not all Greek to *me*", Roger Norrington and Nigel Osborne on musical works, Round House, Chalk Farm Road, 7.30; "The ethical implications of biology lost since Darwin", South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, 11; Celebrities on the South Bank, Sir Geraint Evans talking to Bernard Levin with recorded musical excerpts, Waterloo Room, Festival Hall, 6.15.
Exhibitions: Who Chicago? Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, 2 to 6; British watercolours, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, 10 to 6; Drawings from British Architectural Library, Minories Art *Gallery, Colchester*, 2 to 6.
Boat Show, Earls Court, 10 to 7, last day.
Racing and sporting motorcycle show Royal Horticultural Society halls, Vincent Square, 10 to 7.30.
Concerts: Coffee concert, Wigmore Hall, 11.30; ILEA symphony orchestra, Festival Hall, 3.15; Royal Shakespeare Company London Brass Ensemble, Purcell Room, 7.
Walks: Roman London, meet Tower Hill station, 2; Parliamentary and royal London, meet Westminster station, 2.



Photograph by Peter Trievnor

Brigadier Vera Margaret Rooke, new Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, in her office yesterday.

Treasure finds impoverish Scots museum

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

The National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, 200 years old today, fears that it could be financially embarrassed by the riches that are presented to it.

Last year the museum paid out *about £50,000 in rewards to the* finders of treasure trove, including £40,700 to an Easter Ross crofter who stumbled upon a Bronze Age hoard.

Mr Alexander Fenton, its director and secretary, said that that one acquisition swallowed up a large part of the museum's purchase grant for the entire year. "Museums are obliged to pay out for material that arrives out of the blue if they want to secure it", he said.

The museum's annual report published today urges that treasure trove rewards should have special subsidies and should not have to count against the *museum's normal purchasing* fund.

Scottish law differs from that in England on treasure trove, giving greater security to archaeological finds in Scotland but creating possible financial difficulties for some museums.

Exactly 300 years ago a Bronze Age metalworker's hoard from Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, formed the basis of the collection. Since then the museum has accumulated a variety of superb material which last year attracted 75,000 visitors, the highest number for 10 years.

Archaeology report

Prehistoric astronomy: Symbolic doubts

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

The theory, which has gained wide acceptance in recent years, that prehistoric stone circles were meticulously designed observatories or eclipse predictors, has been challenged by one of the leading scholars in the field of megalithic studies. Mr Aubrey Burl, author of *Prehistoric Avebury* and other works, concludes in an article in *Antiquity* that "sorcery rather than science gave vitality to the rings", particularly one characteristic type found in Scotland.

The work of Professor Alexander Thom advanced the hypothesis that stone circles, from the most complex such as Stonehenge and Callanish, in the Outer Hebrides, were laid out using Pythagorean geometry and a standard unit of length, the "megalithic yard" of 2.72ft. Professor Thom suggested that this careful design, and the positioning of other groups of stones not set in circles, was con*nected with precise observation of* the sun and moon, including such phenomena as "moon wobble" at the major standstill every 19 years.

The achievement of such sophisticated mathematical, engineering and astronomical knowledge by peasant farmers more than four thousand years ago has been hotly debated by archaeologists.

Mr Burl points out that "no astronomical case has been made for a group of monuments collectively", so that although indivi*dual stone alignments* may have plausible astronomical orientations, neighbouring groups, which might be expected to share them, do not. This lack of consistency between communities who might reasonably be expected to have had common concerns has led Mr Burl to suggest that some of the *supposed* astronomical alignments are fortuitous discoveries, unintended by the builders of the megalithic structures.

His alternative explanation is that the alignments were "symbolic rather than scientific and were linked with death", sharing a purpose with burial mounds and sometimes found in close association with them.

Examining the site of Ballochroy, Argyll, one of the most important observatory sites proposed by Professor Thom, Mr Burl concludes that the proposed observation lines are either too imprecise or could not have been used in prehistory: a general alignment *on the midwinter sunset as part* of funerary ceremonial seems a better explanation.

As a test case Mr Burl has examined the group of "recumbent stone circles" in the foothills of the Grampians, in north-east Scotland, each of which, he feels, was erected by a family group within a *shared* cultural milieu. The salient characteristic of those circles is a large prostrate block set between the two tallest monoliths of the circle. There is often a ring cairn with associated *burnt human bone, pottery and* charcoal within the circle.

The circles were carefully laid out on a prominent point in the landscape, and the recumbent block was set with its upper face perfectly level (probably achieved by standing a trough of water on it). Since those blocks are commonly more than 20 tons in weight, and were often dragged from some distance, the organizational abilities of their movers are not in question.

The effort involved was such that the levelling must have been vital to the builders, Mr Burl points out, and so was the location of the recumbent stone within the circle, between the south-east and south-west points on the circumference. The azimuths of 50 well preserved circles cluster between 155° and 235°, that is between SSE and WSW, and two-thirds of these lie between 160° and 200°.

Mr Burl concludes that "no star or planet can be fitted to all the azimuths", and that "either no astronomical considerations dictated the position of a recumbent stone, or risings and settings of celestial bodies are irrelevant to the problem". His conclusion is a direct contradiction of much recent thought on the subject, and its implications for the observed discrepancy between the level of economic and social development at the time and the proposed sophistication of intellectual activity are extensive.

The probable answer, Mr Burl says, is very simple: the alignments of the recumbent circles were towards the moon when it was high in the sky, especially those circles of demonstrably early date, around 2500 BC. Later circles in Kincardineshire indicate increased interest in rising or setting positions of the moon, but Mr Burl draws a fine distinction between noticing lunar movements and observing them astronomically with precision. He sees in the commonly found scatters of white quartz around recumbent stones perhaps some sensate "fragments of the moon itself", and an overall link in the ancient mind between moonlight, white quartz and death.

Further he is not prepared to go: "We have no more than the slightest insight into the symbolism of these remote people", beyond that "of a world in which there was little separation between science and symbolism and in which every natural object was a living part of man's existence, something to be manipulated to man's advantage through charms, talismans, dead bones, spells and ceremonies". Whether the burgeoning school of archaeoastronomers is prepared to take his attack in a recumbent position remains to be seen.

Source: *Antiquity*, 54, 191-198 (1980).

Service dinner

RAF Staff College
The Commandant, Air Vice-Marshal M. G. Beavis, and officers of the Royal Air Force Staff College, Bracknell, held a dinner at the college yesterday. Group Captain H. Marshall presided. Colonel I. Neilson and Mr B. Henny were guests of the mess and Wing Commander G. W. Swanwick (rtd) and Squadron Leader D. A. Wood were dined out. The Deputy Commandant, Air Commodore H. Davidson, attended.

25 years ago

From The Times of Tuesday, Jan 17, 1956

New German navy

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 16.—The Federal Government has asked for British and United States assistance in building up the new west German navy. The British Government have been asked to sell seven frigates for training purposes and the Americans to lend 12 destroyers to help tide over the period until the Germans can provide themselves with the vessels they need. According to a report of the German news agency the west German navy will be fully established within four years; January 1, 1960, is stated to be the target date. The report is detailed and has an authoritative ring about it: so far it remains unconfirmed by the Federal Ministry of Defence. The first units, it is stated, will be putting to sea in the next few months in 18 mine-detecting and minesweeping vessels of the former German Navy which have already been in operation for some years under the American flag. The navy's work will be limited to coastal defence.

Bank will sponsor ENO's 'Otello'

English National Opera will present a new production of Verdi's *Otello* this autumn, helped by sponsorship of £75,000 from Barclays Bank. The opera will open on September 24, with Jonathan Miller producing, Mark Elder conducting and Charles Craig and Rosalind Plowright as Otello and Desdemona.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Blake, Mr Leonard, of Bedingfield, Suffolk £136,015
Cadle, Mr Arthur Frank, of Weybridge, solicitor .. £182,416
Capper, Mr Harold, of Barlaston, Staffordshire, ceramic transfer manufacturer £150,254
Collins, Mrs Ivy Kathleen Agnes, of Stanmore £262,481
Fox, Mr Martyn Glanfield, of Ewell, chartered accountant £120,548
Ginn, Mr William, of Over, Cambridgeshire £141,490
Hindley, Mrs Alicia Ruth Mary King, of Ascot £496,389
Lockhart-Jervis, Colonel Beresford Clayton, of Cheam .. £225,550
Malkin, Mr William George, of Ventnor £143,864
Miller, Mrs Violet Audrey, of Marlborough £124,573
Moubray, Miss Ellen, of Harrogate £154,331
Rumm, Mr Frederick John, of Bexhill, East Sussex .. £128,519
Stephens-Clarkson, Mr Henry Denis, of Chesham, wine importer £190,895
Wallington, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael, of Odiham, Hampshire £168,334
Ward, Dr Horace Walshman, of Shipston-on-Stour .. £130,286
Weinberg, Mrs Irene, of Maida Vale, London £151,625

Services tomorrow: Second Sunday after Epiphany

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC, 8; M and Sermon, 10.30 [illegible]

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC, 8; M, 10.30 [illegible]

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: HC [illegible]

CHAPEL ROYAL, ST JAMES'S PALACE [illegible]

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY [illegible]

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich [illegible]

[illegible]

ST BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT PRIORY [illegible]

[illegible]

OBITUARY

MR DAVID E. LILIENTHAL

Central role in TVA and Atomic Energy Commission

Mr David E. Lilienthal, former chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, died in New York on January 15. He was 81.

Lilienthal devoted 19 years to Federal service, first as a director of the Federal power and flood-control programme of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and later establishing civilian control over the nuclear energy development programme, with the development of modern resources for the benefit of his own and succeeding generations as his goal.

His first appointment came in 1933, when President Roosevelt *made him one of a triumvirate* to head the TVA. He left the chairmanship of the authority to accept an appointment by President Truman as first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission in October, 1946.

He took control of the nation's nuclear development programme from the military, and led the commission in further developing the atomic bomb and in beginning to develop nuclear energy for peaceful industrial and medical use.

David Eli Lilienthal was born in Morton, Illinois, on July 8, *1899. His parents*, Leo and Minnie Rosenak Lilienthal, were immigrants from Czechoslovakia. He studied at Depauw University in Indiana, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1920, and at Harvard Law School, where he obtained a Doctor of Laws degree in 1923. There he was influenced by Professor Felix Frankfurter, who aroused his interest in the conservation and development of natural resources.

The TVA was set up in 1933. Under its original constitution the chairman, Dr Arthur Morgan, who was an engineer, undertook dam-building projects. Dr Harcourt Morgan, the second member, assumed responsibility for fertilizer production. Lilienthal was in charge of the power programme.

But differences arose between *the chairman and Lilienthal*. The chairman favoured maintaining a long-term peace with the private power companies, with the TVA's rates set up as yardsticks on the basis of the charges applicable to private industry. Lilienthal favoured a frontal assault on the *private* utilities by selling cheaper TVA power through the municipalities in the area.

The differences became public in 1938, after Lilienthal had been reappointed, and Arthur Morgan demanded a Congressional investigation. Roosevelt removed the chairman after a hearing, and Harcourt Morgan was chosen to succeed him.

Mr Wendell L. Wilkie, president of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, the chief utility holding company in the TVA region, was Lilienthal's *principal* antagonist. Wilkie claimed that Lilienthal had rejected all offers of arbitration between the authority and the private companies.

But the TVA became an established institution, studied and imitated by countries in various *parts of the world*.

He was the chief negotiator for TVA of its purchase of Commonwealth and Southern Properties worth $78,600,000. The success of the negotiations was indicated when, on January 27, 1939, he was appointed vice chairman of the TVA. *On February* 1 the deal was closed.

Lilienthal then became chairman on September 15, 1941, and, as the likelihood of America entering the Second World War grew, he rapidly expanded the TVA's power programme to meet the needs of private war plants and its own munitions manufacturing plants.

At the end of the war it was disclosed that the centre of production for the Manhattan Engineer District, a scientific project of the Army that had developed the atomic bomb, was at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, near Knoxville, to take advantage of TVA's vast supplies of cheap power and water.

On May 2, 1945, Truman reappointed Lilienthal to a nine-year term as TVA chairman, which he did not complete.

*On January 23, 1946, he be*came chairman of a board of consultants appointed by the State Department to assist the Secretary's committee on atomic energy in developing a plan for controlling atomic energy production, and safeguarding peaceful nations against aggression from nations that had the atomic bomb.

The committee's report was called the Acheson-Lilienthal Report after its principal authors, *Under-Secretary* Dean Acheson and the chairman, and was the basis for subsequent international planning on atomic energy control.

When the Atomic Energy Commission was established in 1946 to take under civilian control an army project Lilienthal, the logical candidate for chairman, was appointed by Truman. He took office on January 1, 1947.

However, Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, had begun a full-scale fight to block his nomination, partly because *Lilienthal* had obstructed political patronage. McKellar's attitude rallied support for Lilienthal and the Senate vote, on April 9, 1947, was 50 for confirmation, 31 against.

Lilienthal threw himself into *the task of expanding production* of atomic bombs. He warned that the United States was losing ground in the international race to develop atomic energy.

His administrative policy in the next few years followed several lines. He sought to build up the stockpile of atomic bombs and pressed for atomic weapons development. At the same time he sought to spur the use of nuclear fission in private industry.

Opposition to Lilienthal in Congress, however, appeared. Truman nominated him for a five-year term on April 20, 1948, but on May 18 the President had to agree to a compromise, extending his term only to June 30, 1950. In 1949 the chairman had to fight charges of "incredible mis*management*", *but he* was absolved.

The Soviet Union, meanwhile, was rapidly catching up on the United States in the area of atomic weapons. This revived the question, which Lilienthal had raised earlier, of whether the United States should undertake a crash programme to develop the hydrogen bomb.

He was about to resign, but he postponed his departure to take part in the deliberations. The scientists were divided on the question. Lilienthal had no objection in principle to producing any sort of weapon, but he weighed the practical problems carefully. If the country diverted scarce resources to an hydrogen bomb programme and it failed, it might fall behind in atomic bomb production.

By a vote of 4 to 1, and then 3 to 2, the majority of the commission, including Lilienthal, considered the risk too big to take. But the minority, led by Lewis L. Strauss, won.

Lilienthal's resignation, after 19 years of continuous government service, became effective on *February 15, 1950. After a* lecture tour, he travelled in Europe, Africa and Asia. He then went to work at the banking concern of Lazard Frères and Company, serving as an industrial consultant.

Later he made the initial *plans for TVA-type projects* in India and Pakistan, and in Colombia, helped to plan the recovery of the western sector of Berlin; and accepted posts in private business. In 1952 he became president of Minerals Separation, an industrial *minerals producer, and in* 1953 chairman and chief executive officer of the Development and Research Corporation.

He was the author of several books including: *Democracy on the March* (1944), which was translated into 20 languages; *This I Do Believe* (1948); *Big Business: A New Era* (1953); *The Multinational Corporation* (1960); *Change, Hope and the Bomb* (1963); six volumes of journals published between 1964 and 1976, and *Atomic Energy: A New Start* (1980).

He married in 1923 Helen *Marian Lamb. She survives* him with a son and a daughter.

SIR JOHN NICOLL

Sir John Nicoll, KCMG, who was Governor of Singapore from 1952 to 1955, died on *January 12, aged 81.*

An administrator in a number of diverse colonies, John Fearns Nicoll went to Carlisle Grammar School and Pembroke College, Oxford. The end of the 1914-1918 War found him in The South Lancashire Regiment as a lieutenant, and in 1921 he began a colonial career that was to culminate in the governorship of Singapore.

He joined the administration of British North Borneo, and in 1925 entered the Colonial Service when he went to Tanganyika. After 12 years there, which was the total of his African posting, he moved to an entirely different part of the Empire as Deputy Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, in 1937.

After seven years there he was again promoted, as Colonial Secretary, Fiji, in 1944. His next move—to an area quite foreign to him—was in the same grade as Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, in 1949 at the age of 50. He joined there the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, under whose governorship of Fiji he had served. Three years later he became Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Singapore, retiring in 1955.

Of an angular frame and not entirely unangular disposition, Nicoll was a strong leader. His forte was in secretarial posts. In his higher positions he did not immerse himself easily in the spirit of the races among whom he resided: he travelled little and was remote from the *feel of district or rural life*, but he had a dignity, a shrewd brain, considerable acumen — and a nervousness which he almost totally concealed.

His wife Irene, whom he married in 1939 in Trinidad, survives him, with a son.

OLGA WINOGRADSKY

Olga Winogradsky, who died yesterday in London, aged approximately 94, was the mother of the Grade brothers, the trio of show business agents and impresarios who have played a dominant part in British light entertainment for the last 40 years.

She was born in Alexandrovsk in the Ukraine in 1887, or so she thought. She arrived with her husband Isaac and two small sons, Lew and Bernard, in London in 1912 without birth certificates or other documents, and she was never sure of her year of birth. Both she and her husband had been on the stage as semi-professionals, singing and acting.

In London they lived in the East End for 20 years, starting in two rooms above a shoe shop in Brick Lane. A strong determined lady, she almost single-handedly brought up her family after the death of her husband Isaac, an embroiderer, in 1933.

It was she who encouraged her three sons to go into show business, and she said a great influence on their careers. She was ultimately able to boast that she was the only mother in the country with two sons who had become lords—Lord Grade (formerly Lew Grade) and Lord Delfont (Bernard Delfont).

Her third and youngest son Leslie died in 1979. She leaves two sons and a daughter.

Science report

Agriculture: Effects from eruptions

By the Staff of *Nature*

The volcanic ash that settled on a large area of the north-western *United States after* the eruptions of Mount St Helens in the state of Washington last May, June and July, seems to have done less damage to the agriculture of the region than initially feared.

A survey by four agricultural scientists based in Pullman, Washington, in the centre of the affected area, shows that most *losses* to the *main crops* in eastern Washington have been offset by the favourable conditions that followed the eruptions. Even insect populations that suffered severely are recovering well without drastic disruption to their role as pollinators. The chief fear yet to be resolved is that the ash may have a long-term effect on the soil's temperature and capacity to hold water.

Insects suffered because the abrasive particles of ash damaged their protective, waxy outer covering, leading to death by dessication. The worst affected were valuable insects, including honey and pollinator bees. However, the timing of the eruptions and the bees' subsequent recovery seems to have prevented severe losses of honey or seeds. Some insect pests were destroyed, and the loss of grasshoppers in some areas saved farmers the expense of spraying with insecticides.

Wheat due for harvesting at the time of the eruptions will have lost some of its value to the growers because of the ash contaminating the grain. But winter wheat crops are not expected to suffer, in spite of having been flattened by the ash in some areas; the high rainfall in June last year is expected to have led to a record crop.

The forage crop alfalfa was badly flattened in some areas, and the presence of the ash reduced the value of the alfalfa hay subsequently harvested. However, previous observations indicated that volcanic ash does no harm to livestock when present in forage.

The ash that coated the leaves of apple trees, obscuring the light and reducing the efficiency of photosynthesis, caused premature fruit drop in some orchards, but overall losses are estimated at less than 10 per cent of apple production in the area where the ash fell.

That loss is likely to be offset to some extent by the high quality of the rest of the harvest. But some crops of peaches, apricots, raspberries and strawberries were lost because they could not be cleaned of contaminating ash.

Altogether, the scientists say, losses to crops in eastern Washington are estimated at about $100m for 1980. That represents about 7 per cent of the normal value of the crops in that area, and it is less than was expected at first.

The ash has increased general farming costs by its abrasive effects on machinery and by increasing the tillage required for the next year or two. The practice of planting seeds into undisturbed soil, no-till planting, has been widely adopted in eastern Washington to save fuel and reduce soil erosion. It will have to be abandoned until the ash is fully incorporated into the soil.

It can be a matter only for speculation how the soil will be affected in the long term by the addition of the ash, consisting predominantly of silicate. The pale colour of the ash could increase the amount of light reflected from the soil, thus lowering the soil's temperature.

Because the ash has less capacity to absorb water than does the soil, its presence could also affect the ability of the land to hold water, with ~~subsequent~~ effects on the supply of water to rivers and reservoirs. Time will tell how severe such effects might be.

Source: *Science*, January 2, 1981 (vol 211, p 16).

Scottish Ballet's future in danger

The future of the Scottish Ballet, which has lost a grant of £75,000 from the Arts Council of Great Britain, was discussed yesterday in talks in Edinburgh with the music *committee of the Scottish Arts* Council.

Mr Robin Duff, chairman of the ballet, said the company might disappear. Whatever emerged in its place would certainly not occupy the international repute of the company as it is now.

St Audries School

Spring Term began on Tuesday, January 13. The confirmation service will be held in Wells Cathedral at 3 pm on Friday, March 6, after which there will be an exeat weekend. Half-term will be from noon February 12 to February 17.

University news

Bath
Honorary degrees will be conferred in June and July on the following:
LLD: Miss Gillian G. Brown, Sir Douglas Henley and Sir Richard O'Brien; DSc: Sir Glyn England, Mr J. R. S. Morris, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Dr D. S. Davies, Dr David Attenborough and Sir [illegible]; DLitt: Mr Bill Brandt.

SPORT

Rugby Union

England's opportunity to conclude a 13-year-old record

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The English camp is convinced, as a new championship is ushered in this afternoon, that they will launch it with their first victory over Wales in Cardiff for 18 years. With 13 survivors from the grand slam campaign of 1980—and another in Rafter, who had a brief *taste of success as a replacement*—they will not be taking the field with heads drooping. Nor, if last season's performance overall is any guide, will they become *rattled or despondent* if things go wrong at the start.

The senior member of the England side, *Fran Cotton, for whom* success would be specially sweet, has summed up their mood and attitude by observing that England had a good, proven team and that Wales are still seeking to recreate one: "The days of Welsh invincibility", he asserts, "are over".

Wales, indeed, have lost three of their last four internationals and six out of the last 12, although they won the *championship* and triple crown yet again in 1979 when withstanding so resiliently the retirement of three luminaries, Gareth Edwards, Gerald Davies and Phil Bennett. In Dublin, at the end of last season, they lost 7—21 to Ireland and back in November they were much flattered by the score when going down 3—23 to New Zealand.

Yet *they still have not lost* a match to a European team in Cardiff since 1968. They strive to extend *this remarkable* record and to put some gloss on the Welsh centenary season with a side containing three new caps—David Nicholas (wing), Rhodri Lewis (flanker) and Ian Stephens (loose head prop)—and four men winning only their second caps.

These are the wing, Robert Ackerman, who made an exciting first appearance against New Zealand and is now switched to the right where he has played hardly *at all at senior level*; the No 8, Gareth Williams, a replacement (as was Stephens) for the latest Lions party); and two men, Clive Davis (lock) and Brynmor Williams (*scrum half*) who played for Wales in Australia in 1978. Brynmor Williams, so long cast as a Welsh reserve, played in three internationals for the 1977 Lions in New Zealand.

England, for a change, own a majority of players with proven international experience. From the 1980 Lions team they have the hooker, both locks and a three-quarter line all of whom played against South Africa. So *neutral selectors choosing* the best XV from the two sides on view today might be hard pressed to put more than six Welshmen into it at the most. This suggests —with allowance made for the bonus Wales derive from a unique Cardiff ambience—that England should start as realistic favourites and that rarely again may they have a better chance.

Their coach, Mike Davis, believes England's front row to be fitter than it was last year, in which event he looks for some advantage in the tight. We shall *see. But certainly the champions* are expecting a healthy return from the lineout, notably from *Colclough who will be pitted* against Clive Davis at number four. Scott may find Gareth Williams, supported by Squire, a flexible opponent at the tail. At the front there will be another interesting confrontation between Beaumont, now leading his country on a record 14th occasion, and Wheel who may think he has something still to prove after *missing the last two Lions tours*. We must wait to see to what extent England's activities at the *lineout are* affected by the loss of Uttley and Neary.

If the weather is *as wet as* forecasters have suggested, both sides will be seeking more than ever *to exert pressure on the opposing* half backs and to test their rapport with the loose forwards. In *this respect the* understanding between Scott and Smith in the trial was an encouraging English item. But Wales have not forgotten two costly errors made by Smith at Twickenham last February in his otherwise refulgent season. While respecting his *dangerous speed on the break and* his astute kicking, England think that Brynmor Williams may be *forced into* more inaccuracy than Holmes, that rugged absentee.

It is a fair bet that both stand-off halves will indulge a liking for early kicking. Gareth Davies, certainly, will have it in mind to rest out Hare. England trust that Horton will not be hoisting too *many high balls down the* middle for JPR Williams to devour, but rather requiring that great performer, as he sets a new record of 54 caps for his country, to chase back or move sideways. We shall discover in due course whether some extra mobility in the Welsh *pack pays dividends, or whether* England's forwards can deliver, as they hope, the quicker ball from *loose play that their three-quarters* crave.

The good sense of all involved, surely, may be trusted to produce a full-blooded yet wholly untarnished contest *that will enhance* the image of the game, and thrust a little further into limbo the *memories* of that wretched affair when the two countries last met each *other*. England knew they were lucky to win then against 14 men who scored the only tries. *They look now for a victory that* leaves no hostages to fortune.

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Cooke (left) and Beaumont: new boy and the record-setter.

Today's teams at Cardiff

Wales			England	
J. P. R. Williams (Bridgend)	15	Full back	W. H. Hare (Leicester)	15
R. A. Ackerman (Newport)	14	Right wing	J. Carleton (Orrell)	14
D. S. Richards (Swansea)	13	Right centre	C. R. Woodward (Leicester)	13
S. P. Fenwick* (Bridgend)	12	Left centre	P. W. Dodge (Leicester)	12
D. Nicholas (Llanelli)	11	Left wing	M. A. C. Slemen (Liverpool)	11
W. G. Davies (Cardiff)	10	Stand-off	J. P. Horton (Bath)	10
D. B. Williams (Swansea)	9	Scrum half	S. J. Smith (Sale)	9
I. Stephens (Bridgend)	1	Prop	F. E. Cotton (Sale)	1
A. J. Phillips (Cardiff)	2	Hooker	P. J. Wheeler (Leicester)	2
G. Price (Pontypool)	3	Prop	P. J. Blakeway (Gloucester)	3
C. E. Davis (Newbridge)	4	Lock	W. B. Beaumont* (Fylde)	4
C. A. D. Wheel (Swansea)	5	Lock	M. J. Colclough (Angoulême)	5
J. R. Lewis (Cardiff)	6	Flanker	M. Rafter (Bristol)	6
G. P. Williams (Bridgend)	8	No 8	J. P. Scott (Cardiff)	8
J. Squire (Pontypool)	7	Flanker	D. H. Cooke (Harlequins)	7

* Captain

Referee: J. B. Anderson (Scotland)

REPLACEMENTS: G. Evans (Maesteg), 16: G. Pearce (Bridgend), 17: G. Williams (Bridgend), 18: C. Williams (Swansea) 19: S. Jones (Pontypool), 20: A. J. Martin (Aberavon), 21.

REPLACEMENTS: W. M. H. Rose (Cambridge University), 16: G. H. Davies (Coventry), 17: N. C. Youngs (Bedford), 18: A. Simpson (Sale), 19: A. Sheppard (Bristol), 20: A. J. Ripley (Rosslyn Park), 21.

Scots could restore their pride in Paris

By Richard Streeton

France and Scotland have plucked a leaf from each other's past for their international match today in Paris. Scotland could win a game between two sides *whose rugby pride has had cause to dwindle in recent times*. To succeed, the Scots must have the courage to use with Gallic imagination their nimble and gifted backs. Against them are a French team whose masters, spurning their heritage, have reverted to a *tight, ruthless approach, based on forward strength and hardness*.

The two countries shared bottom place in last year's championship table and start this season with new coaches, whose thinking reflects their own style of play. Jim Telfer was a No. 8 *forward with speed and fire that created opportunities in the loose*. Jacques Fouroux, one of the smallest international scrum halves, believed in keeping the ball close to his pack.

Last year France had hoped to win matches with an open style but the pieces never fell into place. Victory by a solitary point against Ireland was the only success; since then defeats have followed against South Africa and Romania. The last time *France lost in Bucharest was in* 1976-77 when they went on to win the grand slam under Fouroux. It *is* a comforting omen for those that believe in them. French officialdom, however, knows only one course of remedial action in crises like the present one and the guillotine has been freely used.

In particular an emphasis has been *placed on maturity and bulk* in the front five of the scrummage. It is in this area and in the lineouts that Scotland have the most cause for concern, even if Rives, perhaps, is not quite the player he was. That great stalwart Paparemborde at tight-head prop *will* be helped by the recall of a specialist loose-head in Dospital. The return of Imbernon to the *second row, after three fractures* to the same place in his left tibia in recent years, adds a new story to rugby folklore. *He now plays* with a pneumatic shinguard protecting the spot.

Imbernon is partnered at lock by a new cap, Daniel Revallier, who is 32 and is said to be remarkably mobile for a man weighing 18 stone. Pierre Berbizier at *scrum half* is the only other new cap. He is a stocky, 22-year-old former centre, reputed to have a fast and lengthy pass. *Seven men* in the side, though, have only two caps or less, with the centre Bertranne (46 International Board caps) at the other end of the scale.

Having gained only one win from their last 16 internationals, Scotland are due for a change of fortune. Their extraordinary late rally last season that brought victory over France at *Murrayfield*, together with their strong finish against England, provided proof that their strength lies in using their backs. Johnston at centre and their new lock forward discovery, Tom Smith, a basketball international, are unfortunate absentees through *injury* but if their forwards can hold their own, Scotland could win in Paris for *the first time since* 1969.

Calder, the only new cap, and Dickson, are two strong, direct running *flankers*, who together with Beattie, hardened by his South African experiences, make up a forceful back row. With Rutherford, Renwick and Robertson providing the guile midfield, and Munro and Irvine, the speed and flair, Scotland's backs have enormous potential. Those frenzied jazz bands always in attendance at the Parc des Princes could *well be playing a lamentable blues* by no-side.

Today's teams at Parc des Princes

France			Scotland	
S. Gabernet (Toulouse)	15	Full back	A. R. Irvine* (Heriot's FP)	15
L. Pardo (Bayonne)	14	Right wing	S. Munro (Ayr)	14
R. Bertranne (Bagnères)	13	Left centre	J. M. Renwick (Hawick)	13
D. Codorniou (Narbonne)	12	Right centre	K. W. Robertson (Melrose)	12
S. Blanco (Biarritz)	11	Left wing	B. H. Hay (Boroughmuir)	11
B. Vivies (Agen)	10	Stand-off	J. Y. Rutherford (Selkirk)	10
P. Berbizier (Lourdes)	9	Scrum half	R. J. Laidlaw (Jedforest)	9
P. Dospital (Bayonne)	1	Prop	J. Aitken (Gala)	1
P. Dintrans (Tarbes)	2	Hooker	C. T. Deans (Hawick)	2
R. Paparemborde (Pau)	3	Prop	N. A. Rowan (Boroughmuir)	3
D. Revallier (Graulhet)	4	Lock	A. G. Tomes (Hawick)	4
J.-F. Imbernon (Perpignan)	5	Lock	D. Gray (West of Scotland)	5
J.-P. Rives* (Toulouse)	6	Flanker	J. A. Calder (Stewart's/Melville)	6
M. Carpentier (Lourdes)	8	No 8	J. R. Beattie (Heriot's FP)	8
J.-L. Joinel (Brive)	7	Flanker	G. Dickson (Gala)	7

* Captain.

Referee: K. Rowlands (Wales).

REPLACEMENTS: D. Sagarzazu (Bayonne), 16: J.-P. Wolff (Béziers), 17: P. Lacans (Béziers), 18: J. Gallion (Toulon), 19: P. Mesny (Grenoble), 20: A. Caussade (Lourdes), 21.

REPLACEMENTS: G. M. McGuinness (West of Scotland), 16: K. G. Lawrie (Gala), 17: W. Cuthbertson (Kilmarnock), 18: A. J. M. Lawson (Heriot's FP), 19: R. Wilson (London Scottish), 20: R. W. Breakey (Gosforth), 21.

Drenched pitch inhibits the worthiest of ambitions

By Alan Gibson

Exeter 0 Bristol 15

It was a pity that this important match, *which counted in the* South-West merit table—in which neither side had been beaten—had to be played on a pitch drenched by rain. It is Bristol's tradition to run the ball, and in recent years Exeter have striven to emulate it. But the weather gave no *chance of the more delicate skills*.

Bristol usually expect to beat Exeter—they have lost to them only three times since the war—but last night they were a long way from their full strength, and *perhaps a shade worried*, capable though their reserve resources are. Nevertheless, they won comfortably enough *in the end*, by two goals and a penalty goal.

Bristol were ahead in a minute, when Sorrell kicked the penalty. A minute later, Webb had a chance to equalize, but missed. Soon afterwards, he missed a chance of a dropped goal. However, *Exeter kept most of the* play and Bristol, though with the wind, were looking embarrassed. Then their forwards began to get together. Sorrell missed a penalty which he would usually have kicked. After half an hour the pressure told, Bogira charged down a defensive kick, and was first to the *touch-down. A notable* try, this, by a hooker, which Sorrell converted.

Exeter responded vigorously and Webb was not far away with another drop. *But it was Bristol* who scored again: the Exeter defence made a muddle, the Bristol attack made a muddle, and Cue, a handy man in such circumstances, picked up the stray *ball* and cheerfully popped it over. Another conversion was made by Sorrell *and that was the position* at half-time.

In the second half it started raining again and though it was at Exeter's back; *coming down* stormily from the moors, they had left themselves too much to do.

EXETER: R. Staddon; N. Bogge, P. Hayman, S. Donovan, N. Harris; R. Webb, K. Summers; C. Mills, J. Lockyer, T. Harris, T. Woodrow (captain), C. Davies, S. Day, M. Cathery, S. Lewis.

BRISTOL: P. Cue; J. Lane, J. Kelly, A. Rees, R. Carter; D. Sorrell, R. Harding; M. Fry, K. Bogira, J. Doubleday, N. Gaymond, N. Lear, P. Polledri (captain), R. Hesford, W. Hone.

Football

Ardiles out of favour but still a rarity amid the faceless teams

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Any thoughts that Tottenham *Hotspur could not wait for his* return were rudely driven from the mind of Osvaldo Ardiles yesterday when he was told that he would not be required for today's match against Arsenal at White Hart Lane. He came back from the World Cup winners' tournament in Uruguay later than expected and was "disciplined" *by the Tottenham manager*, Keith Burkinshaw.

The trip was not a resounding success for the little Argentine midfield player, who had hardly *arrived in South America than* he heard his national team manager complain that foreign based internationals always seemed to return in poor form. Now back in chilly England, Ardiles will soon learn that the Football League have become interested in the principle *of allowing a player to* be away for five games.

None of this justifies speculation *that his relationship with Tottenham* is on soft ground, for the club can hardly ignore the fact that few players in London have given so much entertainment since Greaves. However, last night Mr Burkinshaw seemed tetchy.

He said: "Ossie has been left out because he is not fit, but he has been disciplined as well; I'm not going into any details. He *trained today and said* he was fit, but I don't think someone who has just got back from a very long flight is ready for an important game."

This passing cloud does not obscure the opinion that the employment of Ardiles emphasizes *how little Tottenham and Arsenal* have in common. Despite their higher position, Arsenal are still a faceless team with ambitions that regularly stick in a groove that reports the parade "difficult to beat". Tottenham are more colourful but would not object to a small share of Arsenal's reputation for battening down when the going is rough.

Tottenham cannot include their other two Argentine player, Villa, who is injured, so Yorath, who is now officially on the transfer list, is needed as substitute. Arsenal's 2—1 victory at Everton last Saturday has not persuaded them to leave well *alone, because* Sunderland is fit to replace Vaessen and Rix will probably take the place of Davis. O'Leary and Talbot are still injured.

With Ipswich Town now five points ahead of them and still having a game in hand, Arsenal really need to win if they are to keep in touch with the leading trio. Ipswich's outstanding 5—1 defeat of Birmingham City earlier in the week and their programme of *comparatively easy home* matches in the coming month point to their remaining pacemakers.

Pitches today are going to be just as difficult as Portman Road was last Tuesday and Maine Road on Wednesday, when Liverpool showed the value of experience when beating Manchester City in the League Cup. The *champions* are far from beaten and usually discover their second wind in the coldest part of the season.

Ipswich, with Gates allowed back after suspension, go to Everton but should not read too much into Arsenal's victory there last week. *With Liverpool visiting* Goodison Park next Saturday for an FA Cup tie, Everton will be aware of the value of a successful outcome against one of the two most in-form teams in the first division. The club captain, Lyons, replaces Gidman, who has a leg strain and Wright moves to full back.

Aston Villa's defeat of Liverpool last Saturday clearly indicated their jaunty form, but to draw the conclusion that today's match at Coventry will be comparatively simple would be to underestimate their bright young hosts who have had some notable *successes. Only last month West* Bromwich Albion lost 3—0 at Highfield Road. Villa will want to show that they can take a promised midwinter break in Spain without a mistake at the departure gate.

The flight of Bowyer to Sunderland for £250,000 may have been another hint that Nottingham Forest were *preparing to buy a* new player. They have been searching at home and abroad but *today* resort to moving Burns into the forward line to partner Wallace against Stoke City. Francis will attack from midfield. Meanwhile, Bowyer must wait for his first appearance for his new club because Sunderland's game against Manchester United was an early victim of the *snow*.

Crystal Palace's slim chances of avoiding relegation will recede if they lose to Wolverhampton Wanderers at Selhurst Park. Wolves themselves are threatened and will hope to take advantage of Malcolm Allison's fidgety control of the Palace team. More changes are made today, with Allen being considered together *with Murphy*, Smillie and Walsh. Hilaire is injured.

Barnsley overcome severe handicap to lead table

By Nicholas Harling

Fulham 2 Barnsley 3

With the type of resolution that was personified by their manager Norman Hunter in his Leeds United and England days, Barnsley last night overcame the handicap *of being* without their goalkeeper for the last 84 minutes of the match to reach the top of the third division for the first time this season.

Their performance, impressive as well as courageous on a heavy, strength-sapping pitch must have left the watching Enfield manager Eddie McCluskey wondering if his his side can do to the Yorkshire *club in next Saturday's FA Cup* fourth round the what they achieved against Hereford and Port Vale in the previous rounds.

The irony of the injury Pierce in the sixth minute was that Mahoney, who caused it (indirectly as a result of his slack control) *was to benefit within a few* minutes by shooting Fulham ahead. The goalkeeper, hurt when going for a ball that Mahoney had pushed too far ahead of him, was carried off on a stretcher before bein gtaken to hospital to have eight stitches inserted in a leg wound.

Riley, who came straight off the substitutes' bench to take Pierce's *place, was soon diving to claw* away a shot from Davies at the expense of a corner, from which Fulham went ahead. Evans miscued *his header from Goodlass's* kick to Davies, who headed it back for Mahoney to drive in.

Fortunately Barnsley were not punished for Riley's only mistake, when in the 83rd minute he allowed O'Driscoll's cross to slither from his grasp, giving Wilson, Fulham's substitute, an easy goal.

Although they had taken 33 *minutes to trouble Peyton in* Fulham's goal. Banks doing so from a free kick. Barnsley took only another *four* minutes to reach parity. The goal followed another free kick, taken by Chambers, which was headed on by Evans and missed by Brown, leaving Aylott a simple chance.

Fulham went behind when Parker headed in a searching cross *from Downes and were then* indebted to Peyton for getting behind a fierce shot from Glavin. After Aylott had struck an upright the splendid Banks drove in Barnsley's third from an acute angle.

FULHAM: G. Peyton, D. Clement, K. Lock (sub, R. Wilson), A. Gale, R. Brown, L. Strong, G. Davies, S. O'Driscoll, A. Mahoney, R. Lewington, R. Goodlass.

BARNSLEY: G. Pierce (sub, G. Riley), J. Joyce, P. Chambers, R. Glavin, I. Banks, M. McCarthy, I. Evans, D. Parker, T. Aylott, M. Lester, R. Downes.

Referee: P. G. Reeves (Leicester).

Luton's Slav trade

Financial pressure has forced Luton Town to put Raddy Antic, the Yugoslav international, on the transfer list. Antic, a midfield player, was signed from the Spanish club Zaragossa six months ago for a small fee; he played in Luton's first ten games this season but then lost his place.

Six-point plan

Leicester City have put forward a plan for the Football League which would enable teams to gain up to six points for a win. The team scoring more goals in each half would receive two points, with a further two points for the winner of the match.

United match is one of many casualties

The Pools Panel is ready to sit for the first time this season as *widespread snow has threatened* to disrupt today's Football League programme. Fourteen matches on the coupons have already been postponed—most of them in Scotland—and only another four need to be called off for the panel to sit to decide the outcome *of today's matches*.

The first big casualty in England was the match between *Sunderland and Manchester United* at Roker Park. Sunderland called in a local referee, George Tyson, and he had no hesitation in postponing the first division fixture as the pitch was covered by frozen snow. Inspections are planned at several grounds including Norwich, where *the match against Liverpool will* go ahead, and Luton who are scheduled to meet Newcastle *United in the* second division.

Last night's results

Third division

Fulham (1) 2 Mahoney, Wilson 5,265 — Barnsley (1) 3 Aylott (2), Banks

Newport (0) 0 4,725 — Rotherham (0) 1 Fern

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnsley	29	16	9	4	47	23	41
Charlton A	27	18	4	5	45	22	40
Rotherham U	30	14	11	5	41	22	39
Huddersfield T	28	13	9	6	45	20	35
Burnley	28	13	9	6	40	24	35
Chesterfield	27	14	6	7	43	25	34

Fourth division

Tranmere (1) 3 Parry, Kelly, Beamish — Northmptn (1) 2 Bramhall (og), Bowen 1,254

Postponed: Port Vale v Scunthorpe United.

RUGBY UNION: Abertillery 12, Glamorgan Wanderers 6; Bath 33, Metropolitan Police 3; Cardiff 17, London Welsh 4; Esher 12, London Irish 30; Exeter 0, Bristol 15; Llanelli 39, The Army 13. Cancelled: Bedford v Leicester; Nuneaton v Nottingham; Tredegar v Pontypridd.

Cricket

Time to ensure that time will be added

Alan Smith, the manager of *England's team, is seeking* confirmation of an important playing condition for the Test series against the West Indies at the opening of the three months tour. *As the party settled into their* Antigua holiday village base to prepare for next week's opening match in *Trinidad against a* Young West Indian XI, Mr Smith was waiting to learn whether the West Indies board have agreed to time being added, should a Test be held up by anything other than weather.

There is obvious concern with any series in the Caribbean that crowd disorder could disrupt a match—as it did twice on the 1967-68 tour. *Mr Smith said*: "This is one of a couple of points to be tied up and we are making no great issue of it. But it would be as well to establish that there would be no advantage in holding up a game to prevent a result being achieved as the time would *need to be made up*."

Roland Butcher's return to his home land has excited a good deal of interest, but the reception for the phlegmatic 26-year-old, the first coloured West Indian to play for England, has so far been warm and enthusiastic.

The New Zealand batsman, Paul McEwan, had his nose broken when he was hit in the face by a rising ball from Ken Glover on the final day of the two-day match against a Queensland Country XI in Bundaberg yesterday. McEwan was taken to hospital in the south-east Queensland coastal town but was allowed to leave after treatment. *The New* Zealanders won the match by 95 runs despite a spirited second-innings performance from the country side.

SCORES: New Zealanders 281 for 4 dec (B. A. Edgar 96, P. E. McEwan 81) and 105 for 3 dec (B. McKechnie 51 not out); Queensland Country XI 82 (E. J. Chatfield 3 for 12) and 207 (R. J. Hadlee 3 for 15, Chatfield 3 for 35).

Golf

Lietzke deserts rivals in Bob Hope classic

Palm Springs, Jan 16.—The American player Bruce Lietzke went two strokes clear of the rest of the field after a second-round, six-under-par score of 66 in the Bob Hope desert classic yesterday.

He pulled out all the stops on the return nine holes and stormed *home in a blistering 30 to finish* the day with a total of 131 in the gruelling five-day, 90-hole event.

Lietzke has won at least one title in each of the last four seasons, and is now 13 shots under par after two days of the tournament.

His score included eagles on both of the par five holes on the La Quinta course.

Jack Nicklaus remained in contention with a 67 at Tamarisk and had a total of 135 after playing *the two toughest of the four* desert courses used in this unique event.

Jerry Pate, *like Lietzke playing* his second round at La Quinta, shot a 67 in ideal playing conditions—bright, sunny skies and no wind—and finished alone in *second* place at 133.

Bill Rogers, a former champion here, had the day's best round, a 65 at Indian Wells, and joined Dave Edwards and Nicklaus in a *tie for third place on* 135. Edwards scored 68 at La Quinta.

The format for this event requires each professional to play one round on each of four courses, *each day* with a different three-man team of amateurs. After four days and 72 holes, the entry will be cut for the pros-only final round at Bermuda Dunes.

LEADING SCORES (Americans unless stated): 131, B. Lietzke; 133, J. Pate; 135, J. Nicklaus; 135, B. Rogers; 135, D. Edwards; 136, L. Trevino; 136, B. Crenshaw; 136, J. Snead; 136, M. Lye; 136, J. Haas; 136, L. Elder; 136, R. Floyd; 136, G. Burns; 136, D. Sanders; 137, L. Watkins. British score: 143, P. Oosterhuis.

Boxing

Rugged night for Hagler

Boston, Jan 16.—Marvin Hagler, the world middleweight champion, makes what promises to be a rugged first defence of his title tomorrow night against undefeated Fulgencio Obelmejias, of Venezuela.

Hagler, the only champion recognized by both the World Boxing Council (WBC) and the World Boxing Association (WBA), is favoured to retain the crown he won from Britain's Alan Minter last September in London, but Obelmejias, who has stopped 28 of his 30 opponents in compiling a perfect professional record, is not the sort of pushover opponent world champions sometimes opt for when putting a newly-acquired title at stake.

The challenger stands 6ft 2in which gives him a *four-inch height* advantage over Hagler. His reach is longer, too. He also possesses a jolting left jab which he uses to set opponents up for the right. "Hagler better be *careful*, 'Fully' can knock you out with one punch", says Willie Warren, a recent victim of the Venezuelan.

Tennis

Lloyd's tardy conscience depletes team for Russia

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Christopher Mottram and David Lloyd, two of the three men who represented Britain against Sweden in the King's Cup tie at Cardiff on Thursday night, have dropped out of the team for tomorrow's match with the Soviet Union in Moscow. Mottram had always made it clear that he would return to the grand prix circuit after playing against Hungary and Sweden, and he *leaves today for Mexico. Lloyd's* withdrawal is more embarrassing.

Paul Hutchins, the national team manager, said yesterday that he had known Lloyd was struggling with his conscience after having opposed Britain's participation in the Olympic Games. What made Mr Hutchins cross, he added, was that Lloyd did not give him a definite decision until *Thursday's tie* finished — *five* minutes before midnight, with the team due to fly to Moscow at 9.30 yesterday *morning. There followed* what might be described as a lively discussion.

If anyone as detached and logical as Mr Spock came down from outer space he might find it difficult to understand sports organizations who compete with the Soviet *Union* but *not with South Africa*. What matters for the moment is that Britain have gone to Moscow with only three players: Andrew Jarrett, Richard Lewis and the most highly ranked junior, Jeremy Bates, aged 18.

Britain will nevertheless have a *much older team than the Swedes* who beat them 2—1 after four hours and 27 minutes of increasingly thrilling tennis on Thursday. The oldest Swede was two years and three months younger than Jarrett, the "baby" of the British team. But the youngsters had learned a lot from Bjorn Borg's playing methods—not least *in their readiness to hit with* daring violence whenever there was the slightest opening. Britain's *tennis was more studied, but also* more diffident.

This was evident in all three matches. Jarrett looked a lightweight by comparison with the boldly powerful Anders Jarryd, aged 19, who often punished him for dashing to the forecourt with*out* having the shots to justify it. Per Hjertquist, aged 20, whose attacking forehand is remarkably *Borgish, was serving at* 4—2 up in both sets with Mottram, but was prone to double fault on crucial points. With astute tenacity, Mottram recovered to win 6—4, 7—5.

Jarryd and Hans Simonsson, aged 18, then beat Lloyd and Mottram (jointly 21 years wiser) by 6—3, 6—4. The British pair had three break points in the first game, which lasted 11 minutes, but were to have only one more break point in the match. Each lost his service once. In this exciting and often dazzling match Jarryd was always "thinking big" and from Britain's point of view did not miss often enough.

He *had a sure touch, too.* Simonsson, one of the most ritualistic and irritating of servers, gave him solid and lively support. Had the storm subsided, even *briefly*, Lloyd and *Mottram* might have taken charge. But it never did.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS: W Germany 3, Austria 0; Czechoslovakia 3, Finland 0.

Exit for Miss Turnbull

Kansas *City*, Jan 16.—Barbara Potter, who is unseeded, overcame the No 3 seed Wendy Turnbull, 7—6, 6—0, to advance to the quarter-final round of the $150,000 Avon women's championships. The other quarter-finalists include the No 1 seed Martina Navratilova, who beat Sherry Acker, 6—4, 6—2, Andrea Jaeger, *seeded No 2, who defeated Joanne* Russell, 6—1, 6—1 and Kate Latham, who beat Pam Teeguarden, 6—4, 6—4.

Earlier Virginia Ruzici of Romania, the No 4 *seed, advanced* to the semi-finals by beating the seventh-seeded Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia, 6—4, 6—3.

In first-round doubles, Laura Dupont *and* Barbara *Jordan* defeated Sandi Collins and Barbara Lemburg, 7—6, 6—1.

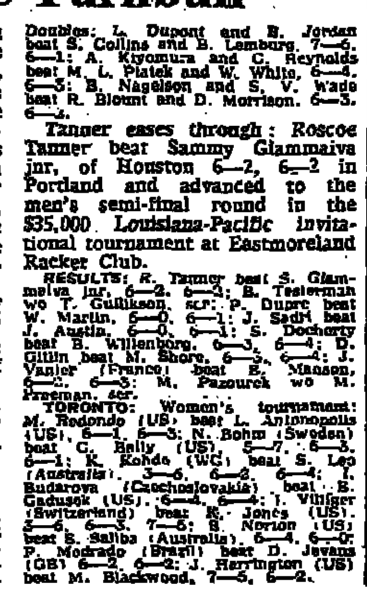
RESULTS: Second round: M. Navratilova beat S. Acker, 6—4, 6—2, K. Latham beat P. Teeguarden, 6—4, 6—4. B. Potter beat W. Turnbull (Australia), 7—6, 6—0. A. Jaeger beat J. Russell, 6—1, 6—1. Quarter-final round: V. Ruzici (Romania) beat M. Jausovec (Yugoslavia), 6—4, 6—3.

Doubles: L. Dupont and B. Jordan beat S. Collins and B. Lemburg, 7—6, 6—1; A. Kiyomura and C. Reynolds beat M. L. Piatek and W. White, 6—4, 6—3; B. Nagelsen and S. V. Wade beat R. Blount and D. Morrison, 6—3, 6—4.

Tanner eases through: *Roscoe* Tanner beat Sammy Giammalva jnr, of Houston 6—2, 6—2 in Portland and advanced to the men's semi-final round in the $35,000 *Louisiana-Pacific invitational* tournament at Eastmoreland Racket Club.

RESULTS: R. Tanner beat S. Giammalva jnr, 6—2, 6—2; B. Teacherman wo T. Gullikson, scr; P. Dupre beat W. Martin, 6—0, 6—1; J. Sadri beat J. Austin, 6—0, 6—1; S. Docherty beat B. Willenborg, 6—3, 6—4; D. Gitlin beat M. Shore, 6—3, 6—4; J. Vanier (France) beat E. Manson, 6—2, 6—3; M. Pazourek wo M. Freeman, scr.

TORONTO: Women's tournament: M. Redondo (US) beat L. Antonopolis (US), 6—1, 6—3; N. Bohm (Sweden) beat C. Bally (US), 5—7, 6—3, 6—1; K. Kohde (WG) beat S. Leo (Australia), 3—6, 6—2, 6—4; I. Budarova (Czechoslovakia) beat B. Gadusek (US), 6—4, 6—4; I. Villiger (Switzerland) beat K. Jones (US), 3—6, 6—3, 7—5; B. Norton (US) beat S. Saliba (Australia), 6—4, 6—0; P. Medrado (Brazil) beat D. Jevans (GB) 6—2, 6—2; J. Harrington (US) beat M. Blackwood, 7—5, 6—2.





Flash-point: player and umpire dispute the decision which cost Borg two penalty points.

'Iron man' who sits in the umpire's chair

Michael Lugg, the umpire from Lincolnshire who surprised the *spectators at Madison Square* Garden on Thursday night by penalizing Bjorn Borg two points, is gaining a reputation as the "iron man" of tennis umpiring —yet he is better known outside this country.

He is a member of the Professional Tennis Umpires Federation, which was outlawed by the game's establishment four years ago, but his no-nonsense approach has made him a popular official among the leading players.

During the Benson and Hedges tournament at Wembley in November he was in charge of the match during which John McEnroe carried on an argument with a woman spectator. Mr Lugg persuaded the volatile American to play again without having to penalize him, and it was significant that against Borg last night McEnroe was on his best behaviour.

Mr Lugg's decision to penalise Borg came as no surprise to his *father, Stan. He said at his home* in Lowth yesterday: "Mike knows the rules. It would not matter to him that it was a peaceful fellow like Borg who was offending for the first time in his life."

Mr Lugg, a former member of *the official* Lawn Tennis Umpires' Association who control most of the tournaments in this country including Wimbledon, was one of their members who led the breakaway four years ago.

First the good news, then the bad for Borg

New York, Jan 16.—Bjorn Borg beat his great rival, John McEnroe, in an emotional three-set match here yesterday to reach the semi-final round of the $400,000 Masters tournament. *However there was a setback for* Borg today when he was beaten by Gene Mayer, 6—0, 6—3. This means that he has beaten both McEnroe and Borg in the last few *days*.

A record attendance for a tennis event at Madison Square Garden, 19,103, watched Borg, the five times Wimbledon champion, defeat McEnroe by 6—4, 6—7, 7—6, *in an* encounter marked by an uncharacteristic display of temper from him and by sportsmanship from McEnroe, the top seed.

McEnroe's defeat, his second in two nights, ended his chances of reaching the last four and precluded a *possible second meeting* with Borg in the final on Sunday. Jimmy Connors, a former Masters champion, Ivan Lendl and Mayer also progressed to the semi-final round of the eight-man, round-robin event.

After finding himself within three points of defeat in the twelfth game of the second set, McEnroe recovered to break Borg's service. He won the resulting tiebreak, 7—3, after Borg was penalized two points by the British umpire, Michael Lugg, for delay*ing the match. Though upset*, Borg recovered to hold his serve throughout the third set and take the second tiebreak, 7—2.

Borg had been angered when *the umpire reversed a linesman's* call on a point that would have given him a 4—3 lead in the first tiebreak. He remonstrated with Mr Lugg for five minutes by the *umpire's chair and, after issuing* a warning, Mr Lugg announced that he was penalizing Borg a point, eliciting a wave of boos from the crowd.

When Borg continued to argue, he was penalized a second point, which put McEnroe ahead 6—3. Borg eventually returned to the service line, with the crowd continuing to boo, and lost the point to give McEnroe the set. It was the first time the normally un*flappable Swede had been penalized* in a match.

Under grand prix rules Mr Lugg was within his rights in reversing the linesman's call. "I was very upset", Borg *said later*, "*and I* asked the umpire why he was reversing a call when the ball obviously was in and was not discussing it with the linesman".

It was then McEnroe's turn to surprise the spectators. In the opening game of the third set Borg's service was called out; he again approached the umpire and *apparently asked if Mr Lugg would* overrule this linesman. The request was refused and Borg returned for his second service. This time McEnroe hit the ball over Borg's *head and some 30 rows into the* crowd, surrendering the point. He received a standing ovation.

The arguments marred a two and a half-hour match distinguished by *spectacular strokeplay*. Both players served strongly, particularly in the final two sets.

A break of *service* by Borg in the fifth game enabled him to take the first set. He appeared set for a straight-sets win when he broke McEnroe's service in the eleventh game of *the second set* to lead 6—5 and serve for the match; but after Borg went 15—0 up, McEnroe fought back to win four of the next five points and force the *first tiebreak. The victory was* Borg's seventh over McEnroe in 11 meetings and his fifth in their last six matches.

In earlier play Lendl, armed *with a vastly-improved service*, defeated Guillermo Vilas 7—5, 6—4 and Connors, back at his fighting best, won warm applause from the crowd when he gained a *one-sided 6—2, 6—4 victory over* Harold Solomon. Mayer, who beat McEnroe in three sets on Wednesday, used changes of pace and his drop shot to overcome José Luis Clerc 6—3, 7—5.

Clerc beat Mc Enroe 6—3, 6—0 tonight so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against Clerc the American did not seem to be trying. Clerc said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to play or no. *But I felt good today* and what I cared about was beating him. In the second set, I returned his service so well and had so many passing shots that I earned the win. *Counting today's match*, I have now beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

SPORT

Hockey

Netherlands lift the trophy and the crowd lift England

From Sydney Friskin
Karachi, Jan 16

Netherlands 7 — England 4

The Netherlands won the third Champions Trophy tournament, sponsored by Pakistan International Airlines, here today but struggled to overcome a spirited challenge by England who were given a standing ovation on leaving the ground. The scoreline disguises the fact that England twice levelled the score after being two goals behind.

Australia won the silver medal by beating Spain 4—1 and West Germany the bronze after a 2—2 draw with Pakistan. This was the first big success for the Netherlands since winning the 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam, although they had little hope of winning here with several inexperienced players in the side. The two previous Champions Trophy tournaments were won by Pakistan.

The Dutch coach Wim van Heumen, while praising his own team, said he was pleasantly surprised by England's fine displays not only in the last match but also throughout the tournament. He particularly commended the unrelenting character of the English game and in doing so could have been thinking of those last few minutes in which even Craig came up from behind to beat Litjens to the ball.

David Whitaker, the England coach, conceded that the better side had won but was critical of the umpires for what he called unbalanced decisions under pressure. He did have at least on justifiable complaint. With the Netherlands leading 2—1 Westcott went tearing through from a pass by Precious but was bundled off the ball inside the circle. Here were grounds for a penalty stroke and at least 15,000 umpires in the stands thought so.

England, without Khehar, who returned home a day earlier for business reasons, made the most of their resources with Hughes at left back, Precious, Dodds and Leman controlling the middle and Westcott leading the three-man front line. Their combined effort was to put the Dutch defence in panic. Few will doubt that in Taylor this fast improving England side have the best goalkeeper in the world.

All 11 goals came from corners and penalty strokes. At corners the Dutch profited by slightly better hand-stopping and the superb striking power of Litjens, their captain, who added a few words of his own about the umpiring. He was shown the green card for arguing with one of them today but consoled himself with five goals which made him top scorer with a total of 11. In 155 international matches he has scored 239 goals and is now thinking of retirement.

Not since 1961 at Hove had England beaten the Netherlands who started today's game with a string of 13 victories. This sequence seemed unlikely to be broken when they led 2—0 within 12 minutes through goals by Kruize from a penalty stroke and Litjens from a long corner. But Craig brought England back into the game by converting a long corner and a short one only to see Litjens put the Dutch 4—2 ahead from short corners.

Within six minutes of the second half England were on equal terms again with a goal by Craig from a short corner and another by Westcott from a penalty stroke, both conceded by the Dutch defence under pressure. Then Litjens scored from another short corner and Westcott, after a great save by Taylor, was unlucky to be penalized and concede a penalty stroke which Kruize converted. Ten minutes before the end Litjens made sure of victory by converting a long corner but the Dutch were given little respite in the last few minutes.

If the British left anything here at all it is the famous Colonel Bogey march. The military band have played it every day sometimes more than once.

NETHERLANDS: P. Hermans, P. Litjens (captain), J. Jenniskens, A. Den Hartog, E. Pierik, T. Steens, T. Kruize, C. Diepeveen, T. Doyer, R. Bouwman, R. Heyjn.

ENGLAND: I. C. B. Taylor, J. L. Duthie, M. D. Wilkinson, D. Craig, N. Hughes (captain), M. Precious, R. D. A. Dodds, R. Leman, R. H. Brookeman, D. G. Westcott, C. Rule.

Umpires: A. de Vecchi (Italy) and S. Deo (Spain).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	5	3	2	0	22	16	8
Australia	5	3	1	1	18	14	7
West Germany	5	1	3	1	14	11	5
Pakistan	5	2	1	2	13	11	5
Spain	5	1	1	3	9	19	3
England	5	0	2	3	10	15	2

Sports Council

Clubs in cold sweat in economic blizzard

By Nicholas Keith

A drift from the economic blizzard settled on sport yesterday, when it was announced that the Government grant for 1981-82 would be £21m, subject to parliamentary approval. This may seem a tidy sum in the present climate and Hector Monro, the Minister for Sport, said that it was an increase "in cash terms of nearly 10 per cent". However, it compares with an increase of 14 per cent (£10m) for the Arts Council last month and it is also £5m less than the Sports Council asked for.

This is not to suggest that Peter Arts should be robbed to pay more to Paul Sports. The message for sport is that it should not be too dependent for funds on the Government, on sponsors or on anyone else. More money will have to be raised from the players, club members and so on. The Sports Council has already said this in its annual report and will undoubtedly be beating the drum again.

Yesterday, Dick Jeeps, the chairman of the Sports Council, bit his lip and made brave noises. "The Minister has done as well as could be expected in the present economic climate", he said, "but it is not enough for the job we have to do. We shall have to look carefully at every penny we spend. Sport as a whole will have to tighten its belt and possibly consider ways of raising more money itself".

Among the favoured projects which the Sports Council had hoped to support and must now be reexamined are a £1m ice rink in the Lea Valley and a £100,000 scheme to develop squads for major events such as the Olympic Games. My own Buckinghamshire village cricket club are hoping for a Sports Council grant to help buy their ground and will be in a cold sweat until their application is heard in the spring.

Racing

Irish horses will revel in bog-like conditions

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

The weather has already reduced today's list of racing fixtures to two, and by this morning it could easily be one. The programme scheduled for Newcastle this afternoon was abandoned yesterday because of snow and frost, but a decision concerning Market Rasen, where things looked pretty grim yesterday afternoon, has been deferred until this morning when the stewards will inspect the course once again.

Assuming that the weather forecast is right, Ascot seems certain to hold the stage. A thin layer of snow covered the track there yesterday before racing began, but it melted just as soon as the rain arrived and as the afternoon wore on the course became more testing. In the circumstances, the three-pronged Irish assault on today's Lambert and Butler Premier Steeplechase final, which comprises Royal Bond, Royal Dipper and Light The Wad, is bound to be hard to repel because they should all be in their element in the bog-like conditions to which they are accustomed at home.

Fred Winter probably has the wherewithal in Snowtown Boy with which to repulse this raid. No one knows better than Mr Winter what is required to win this of all races because he won the final three times in five years when it was staged at Haydock Park. Yesterday, he told me that his only reservation was the ground.

Whilst conceding that Snowtown Boy had run and won on similar ground Mr Winter said that in his opinion the horse would hate the conditions. His rider, John Francome who has bounced back like a man inspired this week, believes, on the other hand, that Snowtown Boy should go through the ground all right, especially if it got softer. So far, the only blot on Snowtown Boy's copybook happened here at Ascot in the autumn when he slipped and fell in a race subsequently won by Royal Bond who is one of his rivals again this afternoon.

Since then he has been footsure at Cheltenham, Newbury and Lingfield. On the first of those courses he was far too good for Alick who is one of his opponents again this afternoon. Direct Line and Red Cleric are the only other runners trained in this country, but none of them look in the same class as the Irish trio. Royal Bond looked distinctly lucky to win the heat in which Snowtown Boy fell because he was led by Jim Dandy when he also fell at the last fence. Although Royal Bond has looked far more accomplished in his last two races in Ireland over two and a half miles, I still prefer Snowtown Boy.

For a comparative beginner Royal Dipper excelled when he split Chinrullah and Tied Cottage at Punchestown in December, but since he has run less well at Leopardstown in the meantime he might be going off the boil. At his best, Royal Dipper has much the same sort of chance as the third Irish runner, Light the Wad. The Jock Scott Handicap Steeplechase should be every bit as fascinating as the big race of the day now that Night Nurse, Kybo, Henry Kissinger and Bueche Giorod have all stood their ground.

Night Nurse, who has already beaten Bueche Giorod convincingly this season, should do so again as long as his heavy fall at Kempton Park on Boxing Day has not affected him, but may find Kybo and Henry Kissinger providing bigger threats. It was over today's course and distance that Kybo defeated Dramatist and Beacon Light in December. In the meantime, his two victims have paid him a compliment by winning at Kempton and Sandown. Henry Kissinger was enormously impressive at Warwick a week ago but whether he is up to beating Night Nurse remains to be seen.

The main feature of the racing at Ascot yesterday was unquestionably Francome's riding. On Mender he was in a class of his own as the Green Highlander Steeplechase reached its climax. The mistake that Mender made at the second last fence would have unshipped most but Francome remained so tight that he even managed to catch Royal Exile on the run in. "You ought to back this one each way for the Grand National" was Winter's counsel after I had commiserated with him over Royal Exile's narrow defeat at the hands of his stable jockey who in this instance was unable to do the weight. Coming from a man who won the National twice as a jockey and has already won it twice as a trainer, such advice should not be taken lightly.



Over and nearly out: Francome recovers at the last fence to win on Double Bluff.

STATE OF GOING (official): Ascot: Soft. Market Rasen: Soft (inspection at 7.30 am). Monday: Stockton. Hurdle track, heavy. Chase course, soft (if no improvement in weather course inspection 3.0 pm tomorrow). Fontwell Park: Heavy.

Women's hockey

Worth their weight in gold

By Joyce Whitehead

The five Territorial B teams meet today at Sunbury-on-Thames, where play starts at 10 am and each team plays two matches.

Some territories use this tournament for another look at their young players and to see how they fare against similar opposition. Others select their second team which will contain several experienced players ready to step up again into their full territorial team if the opportunity arises. Some who may not rise again but are worth their weight in gold are mixed with a sprinkling of young players, who will quickly learn among such distinguished company.

B team players change rapidly, whereas the full territorials appear for several years. Cathy Ward, of Hertfordshire, is the only East player from last season's B team. Though Celia Sinclair and Judy Dayer-Smith (former territorials) have returned after a few years absence and Robyn Robertson, who scored so freely for Hertfordshire at the East tournament last year, was a full South territorial.

Midlands have kept five from last season and the team is captained by the well-known Staffordshire captain Marjorie Alcock. North have four, West three and South two who have played at this level before. South, however, have already fielded the team, in the 2—0 victory against South Wales.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Crans Montana	100	170	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	-4
New snow on good base							
Davos	150	300	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-8
Heavy snowfall, few runs open							
Flaine	150	440	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-9
New snow on good base							
Kitzbühel	80	190	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-3
Snow storm all day							
Sauze D'Oulx	25	25	Poor	Varied	Fair	Fine	2
Rocks showing on piste							
Verbier	70	200	Good	Heavy	Good	Fine	-2
Some runs closed							
Villars	200	260	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	-4
Snow falls, some lifts closed							
Wildschönau	170	220	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	-5
New snow on firm base							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
NORWAY					
Finse		280	Good	—	-10
Geilo		110	Good	—	-6
Gol		40	Good	—	-1
[illegible]					

feet. Glen Shee: Main runs, a few runs complete others broken. New snow on a firm base. Lower slopes, ample nursery areas. New snow on a firm base. Vertical runs, 1,000 feet. Access roads, slight snow. Snow level, 2,000 feet. Glencoe: Main runs, a few runs complete [illegible]

Rugby League

Castleford can take a firmer grip

By Keith Macklin

After two consecutive league defeats while fielding teams weakened by injuries and international calls, Castleford are still clinging by their fingernails to the top of the first division; but they need to beat Oldham tomorrow to retain a firm grip. Their prospects are improved by the return of five players, the backs Gary Hyde and Steve Fenton and forwards David Finch, Kevin Ward and Bob Spurr. This injection of strength and skill should enable Castleford to win against an Oldham side who have been hit by injuries and poor form.

Bradford Northern and Wakefield Trinity meet, snow permitting, in a top of the table game at Odsal. Northern also have a spate of injuries and their wing, Alan Parker, misses his first game of the season. Northern were not at all impressive at Widnes last week and Trinity could pick up both points.

Hull Kingston Rovers slipped up at home against St Helens last week and cannot guarantee a return to winning ways away to Featherstone, who were a trifle unlucky to be beaten by the odd point at Warrington last weekend and still have designs on the championship.

Halifax have won their last two games to pull away from the relegation zone and such is the patchy nature of the Leeds performances nowadays that Halifax could well beat their neighbours at Thrum Hall. Leeds will be without their skilful pack leader and hooker, David Ward, who was injured against Salford in midweek.

St Helens have reversed an earlier decision not to allow Pilkington Rees, the amateur club, to play their Three Fives Challenge cup first round game against York at Knowsley Road. The amateurs can now look forward to a bumper Sunday attendance.

Salford have protested to the Rugby League executive committee about the fact that the New Zealand centre, Ashley McEwan, played against them for Oldham as a trialist in a match won by Oldham. According to Salford, McEwan did not have clearance from New Zealand.

Cross country

Lancashire offer challenge to White Rose

By Paul Harrison

Yorkshire defend their team title in the CAU Inter-Counties cross-country championships, sponsored by British Meat, at Western Park Leicester today. Their traditional rivals, Lancashire, will challenge strongly and from the south Surrey and Kent are thought to be in with a chance. Forty-one counties have entered on the course used for last year's national championships.

The three-lap senior race will be run over seven and a half miles and in the individual battle John Wild, the holder from Derbyshire, faces stiff opposition from Steve Jones from Gwent, Roger Hackney (Hampshire), Andy Holden (Lancashire) and Dave Clarke (Surrey). Others likely to be in contention include Julian Goater (Middlesex) and Steve Kenyon (Lancashire). Nick Rose (Avon) is entered but there seems some doubt about his availability. Yorkshire will be led by Graham Ellis and Trevor Wright who won the inter-counties title back in 1969.

There will also be a youths and a junior race with David Lewis of Lancashire the outstanding junior expected to retain his title. Too many leading performers are missing for this to be any realistic guide to the composition of the English team for the world cross-country championships in Spain, late in March. The men for Madrid will be chosen after the national championships at Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead earlier that month. Thus is the Inter-County diminished in importance, although the men running today will not necessarily see it so.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Washington Bullets 106, Detroit Pistons 89; Milwaukee Bucks 113, Philadelphia 76ers 110.

BOLOGNA: European Champions Cup: Sinudyne Bologna 92, Bosna Sarajevo 85.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Washington Capitals 3, Los Angeles Kings 0; Montreal Canadiens 7, Winnipeg Jets 3; Quebec Nordiques 4, Philadelphia Flyers 1; Chicago Black Hawks 3, Boston Bruins 2; Colorado Rockies 4, New York Rangers 3; Calgary Flames 10, Detroit Red Wings 0.

Ascot programme

[Television: (BBC 1): 1.0, 1.35 and 2.10 races]

1.0 DURHAM RANGER HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £1,802: 2m)

1 340-214 Knighthood (D) (H. Joel), R. Turnell, 6-12-3 .... A. Turnell
3 0-0b0 Dunsfort Lass (M. Buckley), T. Kinane, 7-11-11 .... T. Kinane Jnr
4 0p0130 Arts and Sparks (Mrs P. Segal), R. Atkins, 5-11-9 R. Atkins
6 0101 Tru Mar (D) (Cold Shield Windows (Birmingham) Ltd), F. Rimell, 5-11-9 .... S. Morshead
8 00p/ Tarylin (R. Croft), Mrs J. Croft, 7-11-7 .... Steve Knight
11 003 Darwood (P. Band), N. Callaghan, 3-11-5 .... J. King
12 — Drumcill (Mrs H. Price), F. Winter, 5-11-5 .. J. Francome
13 0000-04 Eddie (P. Hopkins), J. Gifford, 5-11-5 .... R. Champion
15 4011 Mr Moonraker (D) (Mrs P. Blackburn), Miss S. Morris, 4-10-11 M. O'Halloran
16 102003 Quazar Light (D) (Mrs R. Cobden), L. Kennard, 4-10-11 M. Floyd
18 — Hello Soldier (E. W. Jones), Jones, 4-10-4 .... B. De Haan
19 4 Imperium (W. Sturt), J. Old, 4-10-4 .... S. May
20 00 Juleslan (West London Copiers & Supplies Co Ltd), D. Elsworth, 4-10-4 .... C. Brown
21 000 Silver Sal (B) (P. Sorisi), Mrs A. Finch, 4-10-4 .. M. Coyle
22 0 Toondra (Ld Vestey), D. Nicholson, 4-10-4 .. P. Scudamore

4-1 Toondra, 5-1 Knighthood, 6-1 Imperium, Tru Mar, Mr Moonraker, 10-1 Darwood, Quazar Light, 12-1 Drumcill, 14-1 Arts and Sparks, Eddie, 16-1 others.

1.35 PHILIP CORNES HURDLE (Novices: Qualifier: £1,497: 2½m)

202 0400-31 Membridge (D) (P. Dufosee), Dufosee, 6-11-8 .. P. Hobbs
203 0/2-1112 Pay Related (D) (M. Hogan), M. H. Easterby, 7-11-8 A. Brown
204 120022 *Singing Amah (Mrs M. O'Toole), M. O'Toole, 6-11-8 .. —
205 111 Brave Jack (D) (Mrs W. Sykes), F. Rimell, 5-11-5 S. Morshead
208 00-2123 Law Venture (Mrs P. Sly), Mrs Sly, 7-11-5 .... M. Bastard
210 004012 Admiral Blake (Mrs A. Beeson), E. Beeson, 5-11-2 R. Goldstein
211 001104 Greatham House (J. Sunley), J. Jenkins, 5-11-2 .. B. Reilly
212 003-00 African Prince (S. Embiricos), J. Gifford 6-11-0 R. Champion
215 f3022-0 Go Gently (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin), L. Kennard, 7-11-0 R. Linley
217 00-000 Notkuritewite (Robert Dixon Ltd), V. Soane, 6-11-0 .. —
219 003200 Ronan Paul (Mrs J. McCarthy), D. Hughes, 8-11-0 F. Leavy
220 00040f Run to Me (N. Mitchell), Mitchell, 6-11-0 .. Mr N. Mitchell
221 002000- Speak to me Bones (R. Major), V. Soane, 7-11-0 J. Francome
225 Jolimo (M. Ryan), Ryan, 5-10-11 .... G. McCourt
226 00 Len Ashurst (R. Frost), Frost, 5-10-11 .... Mr J. Frost

2-1 Pay Related, 3-1 Brave Jack, 9-2 Membridge, 7-1 Greatham House, 10-1 [illegible]

2.10 LAMBERT & BUTLER CHASE (Final: £14,204: 2½m)

301 [illegible] Alick [illegible]
302 [illegible] Direct Line [illegible]
304 [illegible] Light the Wad [illegible]
306 [illegible] Red Cleric [illegible]
307 [illegible] Royal Bond [illegible]
308 0-11122 Royal Dipper (D) (E. Daly), J. Fowler, 6-11-7 Mr J. Fowler
309 20-f111 Snowtown Boy (D) (Mrs M. Kean), F. Winter, 6-11-7 J. Francome

7-4 Snowtown Boy, 5-2 Royal Bond, 14-1 Royal Dipper, 5-1 Light the Wad, 14-1 Alick, 16-1 Direct Line, 25-1 Red Cleric.

2.40 PETER ROSS CHASE (Novices: £4,071: 3m)

403 21-1f21 Bregawn (D) (M. Kennelly), M. Dickinson, 7-11-13 T. Carmody
404 f12311 Right Mingle (D) (H. Haskins), J. Gifford, 10-11-13 R. Champion
[illegible]

3.15 JOCK SCOTT CHASE (Handicap: £4,557: 2½m)

[illegible]

3.45 DURHAM RANGER HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £1,732: 2m)

[illegible]

* Doubtful runner

Ascot selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.0 Toondra. 1.35 Membridge. 2.10 Snowtown Boy. 2.40 Tower Bridge. 3.15 Night Nurse. 3.45 Dream Chamberlin.

Ascot results

[illegible]

Market Rasen

12.45 BOSTON HURDLE (Selling Handicap) [illegible]

1.15 GRIMSBY HURDLE [illegible] ... Rock Concert, 11-0 .. Bowker; Trent Valley, 11-0 R. F. Davies; Welsh Display, 11-0 .. Murphy; 00 Wensum Girl, 11-0 Smith-Eccles.
2-1 Mirthful, 100-30 Jane Roy, 4-1 Gilsecon, 13-2 Rock Concert.

1.45 BRIAN NICHOLSON CHASE (Handicap: £1,665: 2m)
32f Major Thompson, 7-11-7 Mr Thomson-Jones
4u0 Heronford, 11-10-0 Mr McIntyre
no0 Caxton Hall, 10-10-0 Mr Walton
00-0 Dalket, 16-10-0 .. Miss Wright
4-00 Blessed Boy, 9-10-0 Charles-Jones
00f Markdall, 7-10-0 .... Carroll
4-9 Major Thompson, 3-1 Heronford, 8-1 Dalket, 12-1 others.

2.15 CORAL GOLDEN HURDLE [illegible] ... 2u0 Chebble, 8-10-0 .... Stringer; 03-0 Gleaning, 6-10-0 R. F. Davies; 003 Raise You, 7-10-0 .... Pimlott; 04-0 Flying Waiter, 6-10-0 .. Webb; 100 Glendyne, 5-10-0 .. Kettlewell.
3-1 Red Mills, 4-1 Due Consideration, 4-1 Phil The Fluter, 5-1 Happy Worker.

2.45 TIA MARIA CHASE (Handicap: £3,915: 3m)
3-23 Kenlis, 10-11-10 .... Carmody
004 Magic Tipp, 8-10-10 .. Brennan
040 Highland Barolo, 9-10-0 Mr Lyles

3.15 [illegible] ... Jonathan Seagull, 8-11-3 .. Du; 230 Princess Token, 9-11-3 .. Gl; 5-00 Rabid, 7-11-3 .... Millington; Reformina, 8-11-3 .. Thompson; 300 Sea Headrig, 8-11-3 .... Jeffrey; 0-pf Splendid Boy, 6-11-3 .. Bosley; 240 St Severin, 9-11-3 .. Andrews; 343 Viscount, 7-11-3 .... Waller; p-00 Martial Sky, 5-10-10 .. Fowler.
2-1 Jonathan Seagull, 3-1 Gordon Lad, 5-1 Princess Token, 13-2 Buckville.

MARKET RASEN SELECTIONS (by our Racing Staff): 12.45 Miss Kuwait. 1.15 Mirthful. 1.45 Major Thompson. 2.15 Phil the Fluter. 2.45 Magic Tipp. 3.15 Princess Token.

Weekend fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated:

First division

Birmingham v Southampton
Coventry v Aston Villa
C Palace v Wolverhampton
Everton v Ipswich
Leicester v Leeds
Man City v Middlesbrough
Norwich v Liverpool
Stoke v Nottm Forest
Tottenham v Arsenal
West Bromwich v Brighton
Postponed: Sunderland v Man United.

Second division

Bolton v Derby
Bristol City v Watford
Cambridge U v Swansea
Grimsby v Bristol Rovers
Luton v Newcastle
Notts C v West Ham
Oldham v Wrexham
Orient v Cardiff
Preston v Sheffield W
QP Rangers v Chelsea
Shrewsbury v Blackburn

Scottish premier division

All matches postponed.

Scottish first division

Ayr v St Johnstone
Hibernian v Falkirk
Postponed: Clydebank v Dumbarton; E Stirlingshire v Dundee; Hamilton v Dunfermline; Raith Rovers v Berwick; Stirling A v Motherwell.

Scottish second division

All matches postponed.

Third division

Blackpool v Reading
Brentford v Huddersfield
Burnley v Portsmouth
Carlisle v Exeter
Chesterfield v Charlton
Oxford U v Colchester
Plymouth v Millwall
Sheffield U v Gillingham
Walsall v Chester
Postponed: Hull v Swindon.

Fourth division

Aldershot v Stockport
Bournemouth v Halifax
Bradford v Southend
Darlington v Wimbledon
Mansfield v Crewe
Peterborough v York City
Rochdale v Doncaster
Torquay v Hartlepool
Wigan A v Hereford
Postponed: Bury v Lincoln.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: [illegible]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: [illegible]

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: [illegible]

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: [illegible]

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: [illegible]

FA VASE: Fourth round (2.0 except where stated): Salford v Whickham; [illegible]

NORTHERN LEAGUE: [illegible]

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: [illegible]

Hockey

LONDON LEAGUE: Beckenham v Purley; Blackheath v Oxford University; Bromley v Old Kingstonians; Cambridge University v Richmond; [illegible]

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: [illegible]

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: [illegible]

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: [illegible]

Basketball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division [illegible]

BRITISH FEDERATION CUP: [illegible]

Rugby Union

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales v England (at Cardiff, 2.30); France v Scotland (at Paris, 2.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Bective Rangers v Northampton (2.30); Birmingham v Rugby (2.30); Broughton Park v Preston Grasshoppers (2.45); Cambridge University v Edinburgh University (12.0); Edinburgh Wanderers v Kelso (2.15); Exeter v Bristol (2.30); Gala v Edinburgh Academicals (2.15); Glasgow Academicals v Melrose (2.15); Gosforth v Richmond (2.30); Halifax v Hartlepool Rovers (2.15); Harlequins v Birkenhead Park (at Stoop Memorial Ground, 2.15); Harrogate v Loughborough Students (2.30); Hawick v Orrell (2.15); Headingley v Waterloo (2.30); Hull & ER v Northern (2.15); Jordanhill v Liverpool (2.15); London Scottish v Blackheath (2.30); New Brighton v Coventry; Penryn v Camborne (2.30); Plymouth Albion v Weston-super-Mare (2.45); Rosslyn Park v Torquay (12.0); Royal High v West of Scotland (2.15); Saracens v Moseley (2.30); Sheffield v West Hartlepool (2.30); South Wales Police v Morley (11.0); Wakefield v Roundhay (2.30); Wasps v Gloucester (2.30); Wilmslow v Fylde (2.45).

Tomorrow

Rugby League

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford Northern v Wakefield Trinity (3.30); Castleford v Oldham (3.30); Featherstone Rovers v Hull KR (2.30); Halifax v Leeds (3.30); Hull v Widnes; St Helens v Barrow; Warrington v Salford; Workington Town v Leigh (2.30).

SECOND DIVISION: Batley v Whitehaven (2.30); Bramley v Fulham (3.30); Doncaster v Hunslet (2.30); Rochdale Hornets v Wigan; Swinton v Dewsbury; York v Huddersfield (2.15).

Hockey

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: [illegible]

WOMEN: [illegible]

Lacrosse

WOMEN: [illegible]

Basketball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: [illegible]

WOMEN: [illegible]

Continuing the series on great teams with the men who lifted Britain out of the depression

The priceless spirit of comradeship

Golf is less of a team game than most other sports, though not so much so as some headmasters like to think. In looking for a team to remember, the field from which to choose is strictly limited in golf. One can hardly include those old public school boys who compete annually in the Halford Hewitt tournament. A team they invariably are, heroic they may sometimes be, but great is not, I think, an epithet they would care to apply to themselves. It might therefore be imagined that to find a team that would fill the role would be difficult. On the contrary, because there have been so few such teams they stand out.

Of the greatness of the British 1938 Walker Cup team there can be no doubt. It is one of the paradoxes of sport that the best of teams may be made up of individualists. That team was certainly a mixed bunch. It contained members of the Stock Exchange and Lloyd's in Leonard Crawley and Frank Pennink, and a former miner from the Midlands in Charlie Stowe. Jimmy Bruen was hardly out of school years, Harry Bentley was an experienced cosmopolitan business man from Lancashire, and Alec Kyle came of Scots farming stock and lived in Yorkshire.

Their number was made up by two Scots, Gordon Peters and Hector Thomson, and by an Irish goliath, Cecil Ewing, who represented Guinness. To lead them they had John Beck, a highly successful business man, multilingual, who had been just old enough to distinguish himself in the first world war. He was a first-rate golfer, was given the freedom to play himself if he felt the need, and he was married to another distinguished golfer who in her turn was to captain a British team against the United States.

The historical background to the match was appallingly bleak. During the 'thirties Great Britain had won five individual matches to 37 by the United States, and some of the margins, over 36 holes, had been huge. In the last match to have been held, in 1936, Great Britain had not won a single match. Three main reasons are usually advanced for the transformation that took place two years later: the trials that were held before the match, Jimmy Bruen, and the inspiration of the captain.

Selection had in the past, from all accounts, been mostly haphazard, open sometimes to the criticism that it was Oxbridge-biased or, in an attempt to correct that impression, that it was too much influenced by regional pressures. In 1938 the selectors, more in despair than anything, and led by an emminent golfer in Cyril Tolley, determined that every member of the team should have earned his place on merit beyond a doubt. For two days 24 trialists played the Old course at St Andrews in threes, keeping match and medal scores.

The scoring generally was phenomenal. Bruen seemed to be incapable of taking more than 71. One player may by his performance lift the whole standard of play. Vardon had raised it over a number of years in England; Bruen, who the year before at the age of 17 had twice lowered the course record for Portmarnock when playing in the Irish Open, achieved that long enough to bring the Walker Cup to Britain for the first time.

Another boost for morale was the triumphant return to form of Hector Thomson who had been a doubtful quantity since his victory in the 1936 Amateur. Several of those who played in the trials were little more than sparring partners and the seven chosen met for a change with a chorus of approval. One place was left open until after the Amateur, which that year preceded the big match. It was taken by Ewing after he had reached the final.

For once the press was not gloomy. Frequently castigated in the past for not flag-waving but giving an honest opinion, they positively purred this time. "Never" wrote Henry Longhurst, "since the war have we had a Walker Cup team of this calibre. Never have we stood such a tremendous chance of winning—and this when hope had almost died." What was not realized at home at the time was that this was one of the weaker American teams. Good, of course, but the great names of Jones, Ouimet, Evans and Guilford were missing from the field.

With so much going for us, what was there left for the captain to do? The players, though they came from different countries and from different walks of life, knew each other well and got on together. Bentley with his strong nerves and laconic humour was, one imagines, a good team influence, and so in a different sense was Bruen with his youthful enthusiasm.

It is always difficult to assess the achievement of a captain. He tends to be judged by his deficiencies. All that can really be asked of him is that he should somehow get his team to play their best on the day. That is something that we, with a long history of inferiority against the Americans, have found so difficult.

Beck had a cheerful pugnacity well suited to the occasion. He was respected as a player, and although he did not join the fray he must have given it some thought. Crawley was asked whether he would rather play with Beck or another in the foursomes. In the end Beck called him back and said that he would be playing with Pennink, because Beck himself doubted whether he himself would have the nerve. From a man of proven courage that sounds odd, but golf exerts strange pressures.

Beck was also not afraid of decisions. His only ready-made foursome was the two West of Scotland men, Peters and Thomson. Otherwise he began with a clean sheet. He put Bentley's experienced short game with Bruen's uninhibited long game, but heroically though Bentley played in helping to save their match, Beck did not flinch from dropping him in the singles which the home team entered one priceless point to the good. The captain could be hard when it was needed, but Pennink found him calm and considerate when the English champion went into lunch nine down to the 67 of Marvin Ward. "You alone shall have a kummell" the captain told him.

At lunchtime Britain were ahead in five of the eight singles, but there were some anxious moments before the end. Crawley ran into a barrage of threes from Fischer and Kocsis fiercely counter-attacked Stowe. But Stowe was granite when it came to the pinch laying Kocsis a dead stymie when he was dormy two at the Road Hole, which 33 years later was to be the focal point of our only other victory. By then Kyle had finished off his man well out in the country and had probably supplied the winning stroke in the match. Beck had in the words of Bernard Darwin ridden his team on the snaffle with the utmost judgment and imbued them with a priceless spirit of comradeship. I am not sure whether they were a great team at the beginning of that historic week, but they certainly were by the end.

Peter Ryde

Cupful of smiles: John Beck, Britain's captain (left) and Francis Ouimet with the Walker Cup.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

هكذا من الأصل

Personal investment and finance, pages 20 and 21

■ **Stock markets**
FT Ind 451.9 up 3.4 pts
FT Gilts 68.05 down 0.01

■ **Sterling**
$2.3930 down 85 points
Index 80.0 up 0.3

■ **Dollar**
Index 87.3 up 0.5
DM2.0050 up 60 pts

■ **Gold**
$561.50 down $12

■ **Money**
3 month sterling 14[illegible]-14[illegible]
3 month Euro $ 19[illegible]-18[illegible]
6 mnth Euro $ 17[illegible]-17[illegible]

IN BRIEF

Giro Bank cuts 1 pc off personal loan rate

Interest rates on National *Giro Bank personal loans are* to go down by one percentage point from Monday. At the *same time, the minimum loan* is to go up from £200 to £300. Existing personal loans will not *be affected.*

On loans of £300 to £799 (previously £200 to £599) the new rate *will* be 11 per cent. The old rate was 12 per cent.

On loans of £800 to £3,000 (previously £600 to £3,000) the new rate will be 10 per cent. The former rate was 11 per cent.

The interest rate on Giro bank deposit accounts will be reduced from 11 per cent to 10½ per cent. A bonus rate of 1 per cent a year will continue to be paid on the minimum balance in the account in a six-months period.

NEB stake sold

The National Enterprise Board yesterday disposed of its 26 per cent holding in Systems Designers International for £1.2m to The Independent Investment Company and clients of Ivory and Sime. The NEB's original investment was £184,000 made in January, 1973.

BP accepts increase

British Petroleum has agreed to accept a $3 increase in the price of its Forties crude from the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, which has the right to buy 51 per cent of all North Sea output. This puts Forties crude at $39.25, just below the price of equivalent North African crudes.

Inveresk shares up

Shares rose 11½p to 36p in the Inveresk paper and stationery group after news that a takeover bid will be mounted. Inveresk, long regarded as a potential bid target by the City, is valued at £7.3m at this price. Half year results to September showed losses of £700,000.

Motorcycle sales

Motorcycle and scooter sales last year rose to a 21-year high, despite the recession. They totalled 315,641, up 10 per cent on the previous year. The rise compares with a drop of 12 per cent in new car sales.

US money supply

M1B, the more broadly defined American measure of money supply, rose $11,400m (£4,750m) to a seasonally adjusted *$417,600m (£17,000m)* in the week to January 7. The previous week's figure was revised to $406,200m from $406,800m. M1A, the more narrowly defined money supply, rose $1,600m to $382,500m from a revised $380,900m.

IMF may raise charges

The International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank affiliate, are both having liquidity problems and the IMF may have to raise its charges, Mr Byanti Kharmawan, IMF director, said.

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.32 points up to 973.29. The $ SDR was 1.2649 and the £ SDR was 0.527181.

Inflation rate edges down for seventh month running

By Melvyn Westlake

Price inflation edged down further in December to give a year-on-year rate of 15.1 per cent. It was the seventh consecutive month to show a declining trend, and compared with a year-on-year figure of 15.3 per cent in November. A further, and sharper, drop is expected for January.

Figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment show that the retail price index rose by 0.5 per cent last month, slightly below the rate of monthly increase seen in the autumn.

Government ministers have, however, recently preferred to stress the underlying rate of price increases. This measures the annual rate of increase in prices over the past six months, excluding seasonal foods.

On that basis, inflation is now down to 8 per cent—the lowest underlying rate for more than two years.

It compares to an underlying rate of 13.6 per cent in May, 1979, when the present Government came to power.

But, it is admitted in Whitehall that this measure of inflation probably understates the real position at the moment.

This is because it excludes the spring months when some of the largest price increases are recorded, notably for local authority rates and rents. Budget tax increases also have an influence on retail prices at that time of the year.

But there is no doubt that the rate at which inflation has been falling has surprised even the Government. Most economic forecasters, both inside and outside Government, now expect that the year-on-year measure of inflation will be down nearly to single figures by the end of this year.

At the time of the mini-Budget, last November, the Treasury predicted that the retail price index would show a rise of 11 per cent between the fourth quarter of 1980 and the fourth quarter of 1981.

The decline in inflation is being helped by the firmness of the pound on the foreign exchanges, which has reduced the cost of Britain's raw materials. At the same time, the recession and stiff foreign competition has put a brake on the price that British industry charges for its products.

Factory-gate prices in December showed the smallest rise for any month since at least the middle 1970s.

The main upward pressure on prices is continuing to come from the wage increases that occurred earlier this year, and from higher tariffs for the goods and services supplied by the nationalized industries.

Unit labour costs showed *another sharp rise in the third* quarter of last year, according to figures produced yes*terday. Over the economy* as a whole, unit labour costs are estimated to have risen by 21.1 *per cent during the July-*September period, after an even larger rise, of 23.2 per *cent in the previous three* months.

Both increases are markedly *faster than those seen in pre*vious quarters, which were of the order of 16 to 17 per cent.

This reflects broadly the rise in average earnings over the last year. In spite of the smaller *wage settlements* that are now taking place, the underlying rise in average earnings is still running at about 20 per cent.

At the same time, while prices overall have risen by 15 per cent during the last year, the charges of nationalized industries have risen by double that figure. This is because of *the jump in energy and trans*port prices, as well as postage and telephone tariffs.

The rise in the retail price index last month resulted mainly from higher rail fares, food prices and average prices for gas and telephones. Food price increases included those *for fresh meat and vegetables* and bread.

Britain's inflation rate is still above the average for the other big industrialized countries, which was about 12.5 per cent *in November. Only Italy had* a higher inflation rate than Britain, but in none of the other countries was the rate of price increases declining as fast as here.

Britain's inflation rate is thus expected to fall below the average for these other countries during the next few months.

£246m trade surplus despite higher imports

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Britain had a £246m surplus on its visible trade last month and ended 1980 with a surplus on current account of £2,281m. But exports were down and imports were up from November and the tide may have turned towards worse performance on the external account.

At the same time as the Department of Trade issued the trade figures, new estimates of industrial production for November showed that the recession in manufacturing has continued.

Total industrial production in November was unchanged because of a recovery in the output of North Sea oil. Manufacturing output dropped by 0.5 per cent however, to stand 15 per cent below its level in November last year, believed to be the sharpest slump since records began in 1810.

The good side of this was shown by news of yet another surplus rtdae with the rest of the world. After adding on an estimated surplus of *£100m for trade in invisibles,* the current account surplus was £346m.

The large surplus on Britain's current account was one of the biggest economic surprises of 1980, because the Treasury initially predicted a large deficit.

The improvement came partly because sterling turned out to have a much higher value than expected, which meant that more was received for the goods sold abroad and less paid for those imported.

The problems caused by this *situation are starting to become* clear, as British exporters find it harder and harder to sell overseas. *The value of exports* fell in December to £3,929m from £3,960m in November and the volume dropped very sharply.

If erratic items are excluded, the volume of exports dropped to an index of 123.5 in December, down from 131.7 in November, which seems to have been a freak month.

It is now clear that the volume of *exports* started to deteriorate in the spring. Worse is to come. The Confederation *of British Industry last night* gave a warning that exports were unlikely to hold up.

"*Export prices have been* flat over the past five months, which means a tremendous *squeeze on profits at a time* when industrial costs are increasing", the CBI said.

The volume of imports fell even more sharply than exports for most of last year because the recession in Britain was more severe than with most of our trading partners.

There are signs that the tide may have turned here as well, however, with increased imports of consumer goods coming into the country because they are now more competitive than their British equivalents.

The volume of imports, excluding erratic items, went up to an index of 114.7, compared to an index of 113.8 in November. The index for both exports and imports is based on a 1975 level of 100.

The latest recovery still left *the volume of imports* well down on earlier in the year. In the fourth quarter, the *volume, excluding erratic items,* was down by 6.5 per cent on the third quarter of the year. *There was a sharp rise in the* value of imports, which went up to £3,683m.

During 1980 as a whole there was a surplus of £280m on trade in oil and a surplus of £759m on trade in *other goods.* The rest of the £2,281m surplus on current account was provided by a surplus on *invisibles.*

For the current year, the last published forecast by the Treasury was that there would be a surplus of £2,000m. Much will depend on the growth of export markets and the extent to which the economy recovers.

In the three months to the end of November, total industrial output was down 3.6 per *cent on the previous quarter.* Manufacturing output was down by 4.5 per cent. Steel recovered to a slightly more normal level, but remained depressed, as did textiles and clothing.

Commercial vehicles head at BL resigns

By Edward Townsend

Mr David Abell, 38-year-old managing director of the commercial vehicle subsidiary of BL and widely regarded as one of the state-owned company's most successful executives, resigned from his post yesterday.

Leyland Vehicles also revealed yesterday that it was at an advanced stage of negotiations with *Suter Electrical,* the Lancashire-based company in which Mr Abell is a share*holder, for the sale of Prest*cold, BL's commercial refrigeration business which it has been *attempting to sell for the past* two years.

In a statement, LVL said that *Mr Abel intended to devote* all his time to his interests in Suter, which makes hair salon *equipment* and is a wholesaler for car equipment.

Negotiations on the Prestcold deal are expected to take until at least the end of next month with the purchase price probably around £10m.

Mr Abel said last night: "I am ambitious to build up a major group of companies and Prestcold is the first step forward. It will be run on a small central staff with the companies as autonomous units."

Although Mr Abell expects to move more towards the distribution sector rather than heavy manufacturing, Prestcold will continue in manufacturing. An attraction of *Prestcold was its strength in* distribution.

On Wednesday, Sutter halted dealings in the company's shares after two weeks in which the ordinary and deferred shares rose by 21p. The two classes of shares were suspended at 66p and 64p, giving the *company* a value of £5.32m.

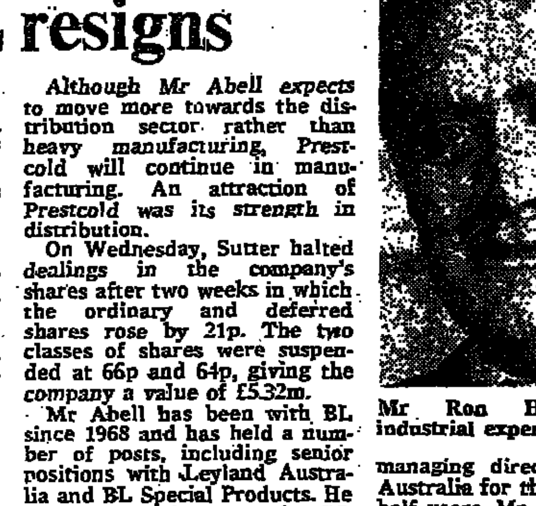
Mr Abell has been with BL since 1968 and has held a number of posts, including senior positions with Leyland Australia and BL Special Products. He became chairman of BL Commercial Vehicles and chairman and managing director of LVL in 1979.

The company said that in future the truck and bus operations of BL would be known as the Leyland Group and the principal operating company as LVL. Mr David Andrews, executive vice chairman of BL has in addition been appointed chairman of the Leyland Group and is responsible for the Alvis military vehicle company and Coventry Climax.

Mr Abell is replaced by Mr Ron Hancock who has been managing director of Leyland Australia for the last two and a half years. Mr Hancock, who is 46, becomes managing director of the Leyland Group and chairman of LVL.

The company said Mr Hancock had had wide and successful industrial experience having been employed by Mullard and Schweppes before joining BL in 1968.

He was managing director of BL's truck and bus manufacturing operation in India before returning to the United Kingdom to establish the SU Butek group of companies where he was managing director before his appointment to Australia.



Mr Ron Hancock: wide industrial experience.

Settlement near in AT & T case

Washington, Jan 16.—The United States government and American Telephone and Telegraph Co appeared on the verge of completing a settlement of the government's civil anti-trust case against AT&T.

Mr Harold Green, a Federal Judge, today described the settlement talks as "essentially complete".

He said the parties informed him on Wednesday that a "*concrete* detailed . . . tangible" agreement had been reached. He said the parties told him that no "complex or controversial features remained to be resolved".

After delaying the trial until February 2, the judge said he was prepared to give both sides an additional 30-day delay to "iron out the language of their agreement and to officially file it as a proposed consent decree".

He said he would resume the trial on March 4 if a completed decree has not been submitted to him by then.

Once testimony by witnesses begins, however, federal law would enable any private party *suing AT&T for damages* to use a consent decree signed after that date to prove its case.

For that reason AT&T's vulnerability to anti-trust damage suits would be substantially increased if it agreed to a settlement after testimony began.

Opening arguments in the long-delayed trial of the six-year-old case began on Thursday and continued today. But after the company had concluded its opening statements *shortly after noon today,* the judge recessed the trial.

Optimism over hostages boosts dollar

By Our Financial Staff

The dollar surged ahead during most of yesterday, *buoyed* by hope that the hostages would be released and fears that interest rates would stay high. But in late trading the market suddenly realized that Iran might sell some of *the dollars* it will receive and the American currency started to lose ground.

Sterling rose with the dollar and ended the day with an effective exchange rate up 0.3 percentage points and 80 per cent of its 1971 level, the highest since early November. *It closed* at $2.3930, down by 85 points.

The dollar's index as calculated by the Bank of England rose by 0.5 percentage points to 87.3 per cent of its 1971 level.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

BP	12p to 404p	Inveresk Grp	11½p to 36p
Charter Cons	12p to 198p	Massey-Ferg	35p to 170p
Gas & Oil Acre	20p to 475p	Muirhead	12p to 78p
Haden Carrier	15p to 173p	Shell Trans	14p to 458p
Harrison Cros	37p to 787p	Vosper	14p to 100p

Falls

Ass Paper	2p to 25p	Feedex Ltd	10p to 279p
Carclo Eng	3p to 42p	Int Thomson	3p to 39p
De La Rue	20p to 700p	Kode Intl	10p to 260p
Electrocomps	45p to 618p	Middle Wits	20p to 785p
Elsburg Gold	10p to 216p	Unitech	16p to 242p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.11	2.03	Norway Kr	12.97	12.42
Austria Sch	35.80	33.80	Portugal Esc	135.00	127.00
Belgium Fr	80.25	76.75	South Africa Rd	2.10	1.97
Canada $	2.92	2.84	Spain Pta	196.50	188.00
Denmark Kr	15.40	14.70	Sweden Kr	11.10	10.60
Finland Mkk	9.75	9.30	Switzerland Fr	4.53	4.32
French Fr	11.50	11.05	USA $	2.45	2.38
Germany DM	4.99	4.77	Yugoslavia Dnr	84.00	79.00
Greece Dr	127.00	120.00			
Hongkong $	12.78	12.18			
Ireland Pt	1.34	1.28			
Italy Lir	2410.00	2300.00			
Japan Yn	510.00	484.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.41	5.18			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Chairman admits Gibbons acquisition 'went wrong'

Stamp of success eludes Letraset

Letraset, one of the fastest-growing companies of the last decade, yesterday *disclosed* a sharp drop in half-year profits and admitted that it had made a serious mistake with its acquisition of Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealer, bought for £19m in 1979.

Stanley Gibbons is now mak*ing losses* and the cost of recovery is put at £3m to £4m.

In a remarkable acknowledgment *of past mistakes,* Mr William Fieldhouse, the chairman, said that the group had gots its timing and price wrong when it bought Gibbons.

"We significantly overpaid for what we got", he said.

He referred to "indiscriminate expansion" and "imprudent" investment decisions at Gibbons but said that Letraset had not acted earlier because of its lack of knowledge of the business.

He would not comment on whether Gibbons's purchase in 1979 of the American Marc Haas stamp collection for $10m (£4.16m)—only a third of which has since been sold—counted among past mistakes.

A *turnround from profits* of £1.4m to losses of £246,000 before interest at Gibbons was *the main reason* for *Letraset's* drop in profits from £6.3m before tax to £3.5m. This was after a rise in interest payments by a quarter to £935,000, much of which is thought to relate to Gibbons.

Fortunately, the graphics business, which is mainly dry transfer lettering on which the group made its name, did well and despite a 3 per cent volume fall operating profit, was only 5 per cent lower at £3.8m.

Profits from leisure products fell from £1m to £643,000 and Letraset plans to sell this division to raise between £2.5m and £3m. Negotiations are at an advanced stage, although there will be a £1m book loss *on the sale. The interim divi*dend has been held, as will the final.

Letraset saw the acquisition of Stanley Gibbons as a way of diversifying from its traditional graphics business. It holds nearly two-thirds of the world market for dry-lettering, so growth is limited although the graphics side is a healthy cash generator.

Peter Wilson-Smith

Massey-Ferguson reaches deal with creditors on refinancing

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

Massey - Ferguson reached agreement in principle on a $Can700m (£28.5m) equity refinancing plan with bank creditors meeting in London, a company spokesman said last night. No significant change in the terms of the refinancing scheme were involved, he added.

Senior executives of Massey-*Ferguson, including Mr Victor* Rice its president had spent all day yesterday at the Dorchester *Hotel talking with representa*tives of big lending institutions to which the ailing Canadian-*based farm machinery group* owes about Can $1,500m.

Representatives of lesser lenders were waiting for an outcome. The agreement will still have to be discussed with each individual institution that has lent money to Massey-Ferguson.

There are about 250 of these and only 50 institutions were represented at the meetings between the banks and the company. Several of the creditors were effectively represented by only a few. Of a dozen Italian banks involved only five attended.

The solution towards which the banks and Massey-Ferguson *were working was the conver*sion of some of the debt into shares of the company. The discussion centred on the *rescheduling of* about *Can$700m* of the debt. The general idea is that $350m would be attributed to international banks, $150m would be to the Canadian Imperial Bank while $200m will be guaranteed by the Canadian Government and raised from *Canadian institutions.*

British banks stand among the main creditors of Massey-Ferguson. The clearing banks are owed close to £200m. The largest British creditors is Barclays Bank with total loans of £95m and net exposure, after stripping out guarantees by the Export Credits Gurantee Department, is £23m.

The ECGD alone has given guarantees of £115m, some of which would be lost if Massey-Ferguson was allowed to become insolvent.

The size of the debt owed by Massey-Ferguson and the possible impact on the employment in several countries is one reason why the lending institutions, some of which are state-owned, seem to take a reasonably generous view.

The company has cut back on some of its major activities, especially in the building machinery division, and intends to concentrate on its farm machinery business.

Meanwhile, hopes that the *company would eventually come* through helped the share price, which rose by 5p to 170p on the London stock market yesterday.



Mr Victor Rice, Massey president: *all-day talks with creditors on refinancing deal*

700 jobs to go in foods and printing within next three months

By Derek Harris and
R. W. Shakespeare

Three more companies have announced redundancies involving the loss of more than 700 jobs.

Smedley HP Foods, part of Imperial Group, is cutting a third of its fruit and vegetable canning capacity by closing down its Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, factory, with the loss of 480 jobs. There was little chance of alternative jobs being offered when the closure takes affect on April 17, the company said.

It will be Smedley's fourth canning factory closure within two years because of a decline in sales of canned foods.

Since 1973, sales of canned vegetables have declined 26 per cent, and canned fruit sales have halved as both frozen and fresh foods have taken bigger share of the market.

Smedley's fruit and vegetable operation had made substantial losses in recent years, the company said.

There are no plans for further cutbacks in canning, which *will be carried on at two fac*tories, at Spalding, Lincolnshire, and North Walsham, *Norfolk.*

As well as the declining market, the company blames *heavy cost pressures and over*capacity within the canning industry.

British *Steel Corporation's* concrete pipemaking factory at Addiewell, West Lothian, *closed yesterday with the loss* of 45 jobs. A decline in orders from the water supply and sewage sectors was blamed.

Nearly half the workforce at the Altrincham, Manchester, printing machinery plant of Linotype & Machinery are to lose their jobs, it was announced yesterday.

The plant's workforce would be cut by 240 by the end of February and the redundancies would include management, administrative staff and shopfloor workers, Mr Peter Cope, the managing director said.

He blamed the recession and a fall in exports caused by the high value of the pound.

Mr Cope said that in spite of *the cutbacks, new and existing* customers would continue to receive service on their machinery and spare parts.

These latest redundancies are the third big blow to jobs in the Manchester area this week.

Earlier Schreiber, the furniture manufacturer, announced 475 redundancies at Trafford Park, and the Manchester Ship Canal Company *said it would* reduce its labour force by at least 300.

Short time work: The printing division of Oxford University Press (OUP) is running at half *its capacity,* and its *bindery,* capable of handling 100,000 books a week, is on short time. *The company said that redun*dancies among the 590 employees could not be ruled out. OUP *is not expected to return to the* volume of business to which it has been geared. Long running *reprint orders are declining.*

Mr E. Buckley, printer to OUP, expected turnover, running at £6m to £7m in recent years, to be lower over 1981-82.



Italian move in Libyan gas dispute

Signor Enrico Manca, the Italian Minister of Foreign Trade, is expected to take up the question of Libya's stoppage of liquefied natural gas deliveries to Italy during his two-day visit to Tripoli starting on Sunday. The visit was arranged some time ago to discuss the overall development of trade.

Libya has suspended supplies since the beginning of the year because negotiations on new price and delivery arrangements have halted.

Under an agreement concluded in 1965 with Exxon, the Italian state corporation ENI took up to 3,000 million cubic metres a year—in practice, deliveries were always less—from the American company's Mars el Brega plant, but the Libyans insist that the new agreement be made direct with their oil corporation.

Anti-trust case starts

Anti-trust proceedings have begun in Washington against American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT) which, the Government claims, has had a monopoly in the telephone sector for 35 years, and has prevented rivals getting into the long-distance phone link business. The Federal authorities are calling for ATT to be broken up.

$10m cellulose plant

Snia Viscosa will build a cellulose plant in Mexico by mid-1982, a spokesman for the Italian company announced in Milan. The plant, valued at $10m (about £4m), will have a yearly production of 10,500 metric tons of cellulose—60 per cent for the domestic market and the balance for export.

China joint venture

Daiei Inc, Japan's largest supermarket operator, said in Tokyo that it has signed a contract with Tien-Tsin municipal authorities in China to establish a joint venture company in Osaka, which will import Chinese foods and carpets. The new company has a capital of 100m yen (about £205,340).

Recovery prediction

M Victor Dial, the chairman of Ford-France, said in Paris he expects the West European car market to recover in 1981, with production rising to an annual rate of 9.5 million vehicles in the first quarter, from 9.4 million in the last quarter of 1980.

Canada signs pact

Canada has signed the $750m (about £315m) international "common fund" accord on raw materials, and pledged $22.4m. The agreement has now been signed by 12 countries, but 90 have to ratify it before it comes into effect. The fund proposes to set up buffer stocks so as to smooth out price fluctuations.

US bank profits

Several United States holding banks have announced sharp profit rises for last year, the biggest jump so far being Bankers' Trust with 58 per cent. J. P. Morgan announced 27.5 per cent, Chemical New York 23 per cent, Irving Bank 24 per cent and Marine Midland 36 per cent.

Olympic seeks loan

Olympic Airways is seeking a loan from Greek and international banks to tide over its forecast 1981 deficit of about $60m (£25m). Last year's loss was about $40m, this being attributed by the management chiefly to pay rises and selling tickets too cheaply.

Greek fleet expands

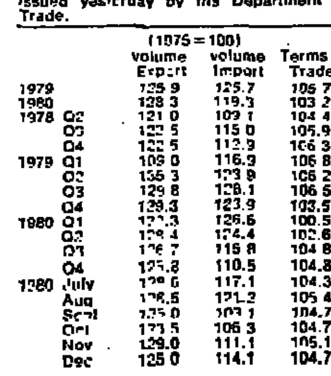
The Greek merchant fleet expanded to 3,950 vessels aggregating 41.16 million gross registered tons in the first 11 months of 1980 from 3,941 vessels of total 38.53 million GRT in the same 1979 period, the Merchant Marine Ministry reports in Athens.

UK TRADE

December trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis, for known recording errors

		£m visible balance	Exports fob	Imports fob
1979		−3,404	40,689	44,093
1980		+1,039	47,297	46,258
1980	Q1	−633	11,935	12,568
	Q2	−262	11,803	12,065
	Q3	+774	11,827	11,053
	Q4	+1,160	11,732	10,572
1980	July	+303	3,979	3,696
	Aug	+48	3,943	3,895
	Sept	+423	3,885	3,462
	Oct	+459	3,843	3,384
	Nov	+455	3,960	3,505
	Dec	+246	3,929	3,683

Unit volume index numbers for visible trade, seasonally adjusted and the terms of trade index, non-seasonally adjusted. Issued yesterday by the Department of Trade.



		(1975 = 100) volume Export	volume Import	Terms of Trade
1979		125.9	125.7	105.7
1980		128.3	119.3	103.2
1978	Q2	121.0	109.1	104.4
	Q3	122.5	115.0	105.9
	Q4	122.5	112.9	106.3
1979	Q1	109.0	116.9	106.8
	Q2	135.3	123.9	106.2
	Q3	129.8	128.1	106.5
	Q4	129.3	123.9	103.5
1980	Q1	[illegible]	126.6	100.5
	Q2	[illegible]	124.4	102.6
	Q3	126.7	115.8	104.8
	Q4	125.8	110.5	104.8
1980	July	[illegible]	117.1	104.3
	Aug	128.5	121.2	105.4
	Sept	[illegible]	103.1	104.7
	Oct	123.5	106.3	104.7
	Nov	129.0	111.1	105.1
	Dec	125.0	114.1	104.7

Ford lays off 4,000 at Halewood in paint shop dispute

Ford yesterday laid off until Tuesday 4,000 hourly paid men in the body and assembly plants at its Halewood factory on Merseyside.

This action was in line with the company's tough new discipline procedure agreed before Christmas. It comes after a dispute on Wednesday in the sealer deck department of the paint shop when eight men refused what the company described as "a minor additional task."

It is the first industrial trouble at Halewood since work resumed after the fortnight's Christmas break, and could cost production of about 2,500 new Escort cars, worth £10m.

The eight were supported by 30 colleagues who were then suspended. The trouble spread to internal drivers in the traffic department who took action in sympathy.

A management spokesman at the plant said it had become necessary to lay off the body and assembly shift workers, but added that last night's four hour mini-shift in the two plants would be working normally.

The new disciplinary procedure at Halewood specifies that if a dispute arises in any part of the plant, the workers concerned should be sent home for two full shifts.

On Monday a crucial pay vote will take place when 10,000 workers from the body and assembly plants—nearly half of whom will have been laid off—meet to decide whether to accept the company's 9.5 per cent pay offer.

This morning 2,000 men from the factory's gear box plant will also vote on the offer, but they are not affected by yesterday's dispute.

Ford's management has repeatedly given warning that the new Escort will be the last car to be launched at Halewood if the number of disputes is not reduced. There have been more than 100 disputes since the car went into production last summer.

The company was not prepared to comment on how it thought the lay-offs would affect the pay vote. But it is understood they think the action will probably have little effect on it.

Some people inside the company feel that it may even swing Monday's vote in favour of the offer because the men will be worried about the security of their jobs.

Some parts of the body and assembly plants were still working yesterday.

Hostage crisis delays Chrysler aid talks

Washington, Jan 16. — A meeting of the Chrysler Loan Board this afternoon to approve the company's request for $400m (£166.7m) in rescue funds was adjourned until Monday because the company had not completed all of the documents required before approval.

Mr William Miller, the Treasury Secretary who also heads the Loan Board, said Chrysler had assured him that the documents would be completed within a few hours. But he added that because he had to return to the State Department to join in talks on the Iranian hostage situation, the board meeting would have to be postponed.

Chrysler's plan appeared to be "falling into place", Mr Miller said.

"I know of no variance on their part from the conditions we have set down." But he added: "I have to give priority to the hostages."

A condition of the new loan is that the company must agree to commit itself to take all possible steps to obtain an infusion of new capital through a merger or other means.

Chrysler is required to report periodically to the board on the progress of efforts to find a merger partner.

There have been talks with Mitsubishi Motors and Peugeot but Chrysler's debt is now so high that they are reluctant to make firm offers.

One of the best possibilities for a joint venture is to produce a light truck with one of the Japanese manufacturers at Chrysler's truck plant in St Louis, which was closed last July. The plant has modern equipment.

Mr Yoshitoshi Sone the president of Mitsubishi Motors described the company's relations with Chrysler as "absurd" and said the ties would have to be revised before the Japanese company would even consider helping Chrysler rebuild.

He said that he had not yet received any formal approach from Chrysler officials to discuss cooperation in rebuilding the American company which owns 15 per cent of Mitsubishi.

The company also said that it would be suspending production and shipment of cars to Chrysler and sending its surplus work force to another company in the Mitsubishi group in view of Chrysler's trouble.—Agencies.



Mr William Miller: company's survival depends on merger.

Canada aid. Mr Herbert Grays, Canada's industry minister, said the Federal Government $200m aid plan to Chrysler Canada Ltd remained unchanged. Chrysler plans to cut its $1,000m Canadian investment programme by $400m.

Germans deny Turkey's claims of aid agreement

Bonn, Jan 16.—West Germany today dismissed a Turkish claim that Bonn had agreed to organize a new Western financial aid package for the country.

Official sources said no such decision had been taken and described the assertion yesterday by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish deputy prime minister, during a visit to Germany as exaggerated.

After talks yesterday with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, Mr Ozal told reporters it was decided West Germany should head aid efforts by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1981.

Mr Ozal's comments may have irritated the Bonn government, which initially gave a cautious welcome to last September's military coup in Turkey but has since displayed anxiety over political developments there.

Mr Ozal's visit coincided with the publication of a report by a West German-led international trade union delegation saying that countless Turkish trade unionists had been arrested since the military takeover and were still being held.—Reuter.

OECD steel output down 8.4pc

Paris, Jan 16.—Steel production in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) area declined by 8.4 per cent last year to 397.2 million tons—the lowest since 1970—from 433.5 million tons in 1979, according to figures released yesterday.

Mr Hans Colliander of Sweden, the new chairman of the OECD steel committee, told reporters that the steel situation remained "very serious" and that there were no indications of an improvement coming in the next six months.

Britain experienced the sharpest fall in 1980, of 47.9 per cent to 11.2 million tons. The United States was second with a decline of 18.3 per cent to 100.7 million tons.

Only Italy and Spain recorded increased production. Italy's output rose by 9.1 per cent to 26.5 million tons and that of Spain by 4.1 per cent to 12.7 million tons.

Mr Robert Hormatz, United States deputy trade representative and outgoing chairman of the committee, said that although American steel production had increased to about 27 million tons in the 1980 fourth quarter, from 19.5 million three months earlier, production was well below the fourth quarters of 1979 and 1978.—Agencies.

RETAIL PRICES

Index numbers (January 15 1974=100) for retail prices not seasonally adjusted. Issued by the Department of Employment yesterday.

	(1) All items	(2) All items except seasonal foods	(3) Annual rate of increases in (2) over 6 months earlier %
Dec 1979	239.4	240.5	20.2
1980			
Jan	245.3	246.2	14.6
Feb	248.8	249.8	15.8
March	252.2	253.2	16.5
April	260.6	262.0	22.2
May	263.2	264.7	22.8
June	265.7	267.1	23.3
July	267.9	269.3	19.5
Aug	222.5	270.5	17.3
Sept	270.2	272.3	15.8
Oct	271.9	274.1	9.4
Nov	274.1	276.3	8.6
Dec	275.6	277.6	8.0

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in November, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1975 = 100)

	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries
1976	102.0	101.5
1977	105.9	103.0
1978	109.9	103.9
1979	112.6	104.2
1979		
Nov	113.7	105.2
Dec	112.4	104.4
1980		
Jan	111.6	102.3
Feb	109.7	100.0
March	108.7	97.9
April	106.7	97.7
May	105.5	96.5
June	106.6	96.2
July	104.6	95.0
Aug	102.0	92.7
Sept	100.7	91.2
Oct	100.6	90.3
Nov	100.6	89.7
% rise in latest three months over previous quotes	−3.6	−4.5

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Housing: taxation

Relief that is always welcome

Buying a house on a mortgage is one field of taxation that even the most innumerate understands. If you raise a loan to buy or improve your home you will get tax relief on the interest. It is as simple as that—or is it?

There are, in fact, some stringent rules which could trip up the unwary. For a start, the property you are buying must be either in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

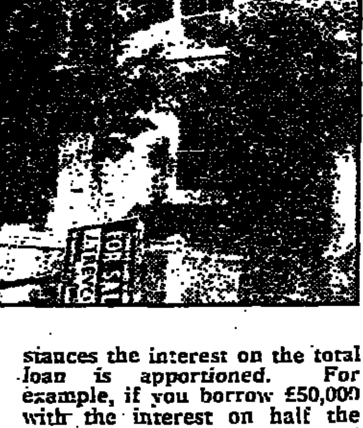
If you are deflected from your original aim of borrowing to buy or improve a property and spend the loan, in some other way, frivolously or not, which would not qualify under the rules, then the Inland Revenue will not allow the interest relief.

By the way, it is up to you to tell the Revenue of any change in plans. In practice, the tax man rarely queries the purpose of building society loans, but will sometimes ask questions about bank loans which you might consider qualify.

If you leave the money on deposit, say, with a bank or building society and then use the funds for the qualifying purposes within reasonable length of time—six to twelve months—the interest should not be disallowed. A loan will also qualify if it is raised in order to replace other borrowings which themselves were taken out for a qualifying purpose.

Central heating, double glazing, putting in a new bathroom, even the construction of a swimming pool or landscaping a garden, all qualify as home improvements. But loans for repairs and renewals which only maintain and do not "improve" the property do not count. So a loan, for example, that is raised in order to repair the roof would not normally qualify for tax relief.





Although you will not get a building society mortgage against a houseboat or residential caravan, a loan from a bank or any other source for such a house would qualify. But you will not be able to concoct a qualifying loan by selling your unmortgaged house to your wife (for which she would require a loan); transactions between spouses do not count in this context.

Two other features of the loan are important. The lender has to be a United Kingdom resident and the loan must be for a fixed period, which rules out an overdraft.

On March 26, 1974, the notorious £25,000 ceiling for qualifying loans was introduced. Interest relief can be obtained only if the loan, with a maximum of £25,000, is for the purchase or improvement of property which is your sole or main residence, or for letting commercially.

It is now increasingly common for mortgages to exceed £25,000 and in these circumstances the interest on the total loan is apportioned. For example, if you borrow £50,000 with the interest on half the loan at, say, 12 per cent and the remainder at 14 per cent, then the average rate should be taken and relieved to the extent of the qualifying part, in this case £25,000 at 13 per cent.

When changing a main residence, the Inland Revenue allows up to 12 months of interest to be claimed on both the two properties. In certain cases the taxman may extend the period of double relief if, for example, a person buys a property and is unable to sell the original home.

Temporary absences from the home of less than a year are normally disregarded by the Revenue and so are absences of up to four years if you are required to move because of employment.

Interest is also allowed on loans which are used in order to buy another home for a separated or divorced spouse or for a dependent relative, but married couples living together may have only one main residence between them.

A dependent relative must be related to either the owner of the property or their spouse and be "incapacitated by old age or infirmity", but a widow and divorced or separated mother or mother-in-law is automatically treated as a dependent relative.

Unfortunately, such purchases for dependent relatives all count towards the overall £25,000 mortgage interest ceiling. So, if, for example, you already have a mortgage of £15,000, only £10,000 of any additional mortgage would be allowable.

From April 6, 1977, anyone living in job-related accommodation—lighthouse keepers, wardens of Oxford colleges, butlers, Prime Ministers, farm labourers and even Chancellors of the Exchequer—and buying a house which will ultimately become their main residence is able to get tax relief on the loan.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Housing: prices.

Pointers for the year ahead

Nothing changed in December. House prices were static, with The Times/Halifax index reporting a mere 0.1 per cent gain on the month to 166.2. This confirms that the underlying trend over the past four months has been quite flat.

Over the year as a whole the index of seasonally adjusted second-hand houses rose by only 10 per cent in marked contrast to the end of year outcome for the previous two years.

But since the beginning of last year, house prices have been on the downward plunge of the roller-coaster. After peaking with a rise of 25.5 per cent (over twelve months) in January, the rate of increase in the index dwindled progressively, apart from modest increases in June and September, which can be regarded as monthly hiccups.

The downward trend in the index, quarter by quarter, is very noticeable. In the first three months of the year the index rose by 4.8 per cent; in the second three months of 1980 it added 3.7 per cent; from July to September the rise was down to 1.1 per cent; and by the final quarter it had virtually petered away at 0.2 per cent.

New house prices have shown a similar pattern. A first quarter increase of 7.3 per cent was reduced to 5.6 per cent in the second, 3.4 per cent in the fourth and just 0.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1980.

The question now, of course, is what will happen to house prices during 1981? The fact that the index came to a virtual standstill in December—based on more than 10,000 mortgage transactions that month—means that some house prices in the sample must have shown a fall.

The likelihood that price cuts will outweigh increases in early 1981 is, it must be admitted, somewhat remote. House prices in general usually move in one direction only—upwards—or not at all, the so-called "ratchet" effect.

This is mainly because many moves are voluntary, and sellers, faced with the prospect of having to take a lower price than they consider acceptable (based not so much on their own profit expectations but on prices already achieved for similar houses nearby), just do not move for the time being.

Grassroots reports from Halifax branch managers indicated that December got off to a fairly busy start, which will begin to make its mark in the level of January and February transactions, but then entered the usual pre-Christmas lull.

The regional reports reflect, of course, the overall lack of movement in the housing market, but there are some exceptional pockets. Demand appears to have slackened significantly in the North and Midlands and to be easing in Yorkshire and Humberside and in the North west.

But, like the first daffodil spikes in the garden, the first signs of an upturn in the market might be here. Halifax branch managers are reporting a substantial upturn in demand in the South east region, shared to some extent by Greater London.

Margaret Stone

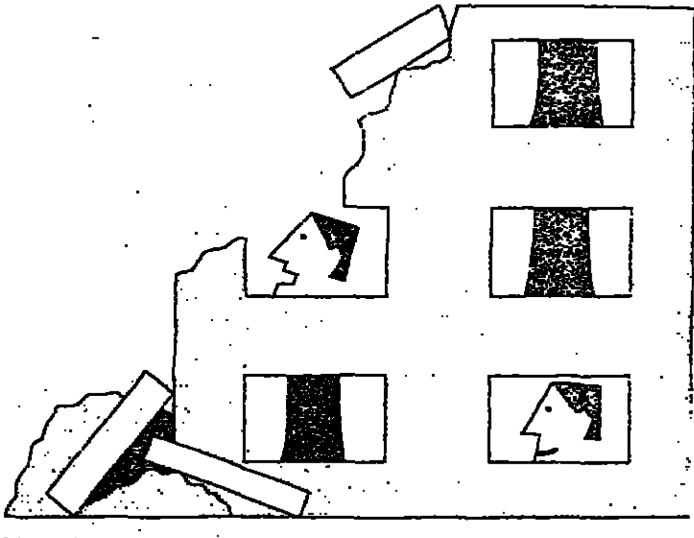
The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (seasonally adjusted)

		Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1977	December	100.0	14,757			
1978	June	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3	3.6
	September	118.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
	December	121.1	17,866	21.2	10.7	2.4
1979	January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
	February	127.8	18,783	24.6	10.5	6.2
	March	130.5	19,259	23.6	10.4	7.8
	April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
	May	136.2	20,094	30.4	13.6	7.0
	June	138.4	20,341	26.1	19.5	5.6
	July	142.6	21,038	26.2	16.0	8.2
	August	145.2	21,427	26.0	14.1	6.6
	September	145.5	21,480	23.1	11.5	5.6
	October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5	4.9
	November	151.4	22,339	26.3	11.2	4.3
	December	151.0	22,291	24.8	9.6	3.8
1980	January	154.2	22,754	25.5	8.2	3.1
	February	156.2	23,052	22.7	7.6	3.2
	March	158.2	23,352	21.3	8.7	4.8
	April	158.6	23,406	20.4	6.1	2.9
	May	161.7	23,866	18.8	6.8	3.5
	June	164.0	24,205	19.0	8.6	3.7
	July	163.7	24,165	14.9	6.2	3.2
	August	164.0	24,204	13.0	5.0	1.4
	September	165.8	24,473	13.9	4.8	1.1
	October	166.4	24,556	11.3	4.9	1.6
	November	166.0	24,499	9.7	2.7	1.2
	December	166.2	24,523	10.0	1.3	0.2

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	December £	November £	% change Over 3 months ended September
North	18,763	18,720	−0.7
Yorks and Humberside	17,986	17,912	2.9
North-west	20,026	20,023	−1.8
East Midlands	19,685	19,710	0.7
West Midlands	22,385	22,582	−2.3
East Anglia	23,458	23,566	−1.3
Wales	20,608	20,604	4.1
South-west	26,246	26,403	−1.5
South-east	32,592	32,732	−0.2
Greater London	32,69[illegible]	33,130	−1.6
Northern Ireland	19,097	18,929	−8.5
Scotland	21,907	22,073	−2.8



Housing: insurance

Extra cover if you have a lease

If you are the leaseholder of a flat, you no doubt diligently insure your own possessions, but do you sometimes wonder whether the landlord is as punctilious about making sure that the structure of the block is adequately insured?

Unfortunately, things could go wrong. If there should be a serious fire and there is difficulty over the landlord's insurance; you would have to resort to law, usually a lengthy and expensive business.

A policy has now been put on the market for you to insure for the full market value of your flat (at a cost of 10p per £100 insured). If there is some disaster and two years later you are still not back in your own flat, the insurance company will pay out the full sum insured.

While this insurance, inevitably, has its exclusions there is cover for situations against which normally a landlord would not insure—such as damage to neighbouring property which prevents access to your own; or damage to services to the block which render the premises inaccessible

Quite apart from covering the value of your investment in your flat, the policy will meet the cost of alternative accommodation during the first two years should your flat be made uninhabitable, although you have to find the first month's temporary accommodation costs out of your own pocket.

You probably have some cover for alternative accommodation under your existing policy for all your possessions in the flat.

But there are two points to watch here. First, you will only be able to claim the costs of living elsewhere if you cannot stay in your flat because of damage from normal insured perils such as fire or flooding.

Secondly, the amount you claim under that section of a household contents policy is normally limited to 10 per cent of the sum insured on contents.

With the new scheme you can claim up to 10 per cent of the sum insured—which should represent the commercial value of your leasehold—each year for up to two years.

The scheme, which seems to be quite expensive, is underwritten by Cornhill Insurance and initially is being marketed by Knight Ellis, the firm of insurance brokers which devised it.

One disappointing feature is that, although this is a brand new policy, not much effort appears to have been made to simplify the wording of the policy.

One of the five sections dealing with claims reads as follows: "Any moneys payable under Indemnity 1 shall be reduced by a sum equivalent to any other moneys which shall have been paid to the Insured personally prior to any payment under Indemnity 1 for any reason whatsoever in respect of loss or damage to the Interest Insured and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any moneys paid or payable to the Insured personally arising from any payment under any Policy of Insurance effected by some person other than the Insured having a superior interest in the Flat covering the Flat against physical loss or damage by reason of any failure to rebuild, repair or reinstate the Flat for any reason whatsoever". This is gobbledegook!

John Drummond

Investor's week

Market slithers drearily downwards

Little Bo-peep lost her sheep and did not know where to find them. Blow Bo-peep! City men have lost their bearings and do not even know where to look for them. Company profits and dividends disappear, to reappear no one knows when. The Government's grip on its own spending, and revenues and hence on interest rates, seems to have all but gone.

Once fashionable oil and electrical shares now go around in tatters leaving the stock market leaderless. The old wheel of business fortune, which should be moving away from financial stocks to manufacturers as business picks up, has stopped turning, for how long nobody knows.

The FT index slithered from 461.2 to 451.9 this week and the best that could be said was that by its dismal, dithering close, professional sellers of shares seemed temporarily to have left the scene.

One thing is certain. The new year has got off on the wrong foot. Last year interest rates seemed to be pointing down (good for shares), while company profits were battered (bad for them). Now both profits and interest rates seem to be going the wrong way, a combination always too powerful for shares to withstand.

As gilt-edged weaken, the yield gap between what is offered by shares and government stocks is actually widening. Shares offer only unreliable dividends; gilt-edged which only two months ago yielded 12.7 per cent now offer 14 per cent or more.

This week we lost confidence in the Chancellor or, more precisely, in his Budget on March 10. The more he tries to cheer us up, the more miserable we become. There was, he told the House of Commons, already the start of a revival in business confidence. The fall in output, he averred, was coming to an end. The Government, he insisted, must stick to its monetarist course.

The City took no notice. All it wanted was to linger over the admission of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Financial Secretary, that public sector borrowing in this financial year would be even bigger than last November's revised and swollen forecasts of £11,500m. The latest figures seemed to indicate that money supply is still growing at around 22½ per cent a year. Bank lending continues to boom. The City distrusts it all and now wants money it lends the Government to yield more.

In equities gossips excited the gullible. Will Imperial Chemical Industries cut its dividend?, asked some. Will Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds break even this year? cried others.

The rest tried to talk Tube Investments into closing factories and Glaxo into the same pickle as Fisons.

Weir Group and Stone-Platt could not escape the web of rumour. Nor was morale helped by Muirhead in electronics missing its dividend after sinking into losses, or by Henry Wigfall in television renting doing the same after a profits slump.

Sulking seamen kept European Ferries subdued, and even good old Grand Metropolitan, in milk, beer and spirits, seemed to owe all its strength in the year to last September to a newcomer, United States group Liggett.

So spring will be a little late in Throgmorton Street this year. But this does not mean that it will never come. Mr Lawson is probably right in warning us against the accuracy of money supply data. All the indirect evidence—recession and a strong pound among them—point to fairly good control over money stock.

World recession could indeed be over by the second half of this year. On balance, interest rates will go down sharply as the months pass. Business has quite probably done the worst of its destocking. Patience, not panic, should govern us now. Sir Geoffrey will, I fancy, have the last laugh.

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
Rises				
128p	88p	Durton Grp	4p to 97p	Annual meeting cheer
46p	19½p	Inveresk	10p to 36p	Bid approach
124p	84½p	Magnet & S	10p to 118p	Interim figs
375p	142p	Stag Line	135p to 375p	Hunting Gibson bid
69p	35p	UDT	12p to 50p	Lloyds & S bid apprch
Falls				
46p	24p	Assoc Paper	3p to 25p	Yr's pft and div cut
142p	90p	Dixons Photo	3p to 131p	Yr's pft down
196p	43p	ICL	8p to 49p	Financial problems
380p	260p	Thorn EMI	24p to 286p	Pft down; outlook poor
250p	130p	Wigfall (H)	5p to 130p	No int; pft plunge

Lending

Choice for borrowers

The general easing of interest rates has thrown up some contrasts in the lending attitudes of the banks and provide the acutely interest-rate sensitive borrower with a wide choice of personal loan interest rates.

Top of list, from Monday, is the Co-operative Bank, charging personal loan borrowers 18.9 per cent true. At the other end of the scale, National Giro customers borrowing less than £600 have to pay 23.8 per cent.

COST OF PERSONAL LOANS

Bank	Interest rate* %
Co-operative	18.9**
Clydesdale	19.7
Lloyds	19.7
Midlands	19.7
NatWest	19.7
Royal Bank of Scotland	20.7
Barclays	21.3
National Giro (over £600)	21.7
Williams & Glyn's	21.7
Yorkshire	21.7
Bank of Scotland	22.8
National Giro (up to £600)	23.8

* Annual percentage rate (APR)
** from 19 January.

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Double or quits

Gleeson—foundation of a good portfolio?

November 1, 1980. Forgotten it? Good. That was the day I last wrote "Double or Quits", a day when I was wise in general and foolish in particular. I confess that stretching the memory that far is like looking across a chasm.

Consider: the *FT* Index was 486.5 and wisely I remarked on "an undercurrent of uneasiness which could suddenly well up and swamp the best shares. So suddenly one Saturday I may yell 'Sell, sell, sell'."

But I did not yell and we did not *sell. So one new year's* resolution is to take my ephemera more seriously.

Perhaps, I hear you saying, I should take my gambling more seriously. Luckily we cashed hadsome profits on a host of *shares in* September, but we are lumbered with Westland, taken in at 47½p on December 1, 1979, and now 122p; MK Electric, in a 174p on July 5 last, now 175p; Fidelity Radio bought at 36p on September 6 and now 34p; Myson also acquired at 50p on September 6 and reeling at 25p; Courtaulds, bought on November 1 at 64p and, wait for it, now 58p; and Reynolds Diversified also bought on November 1 at 4½p and now 3½p.

So we missed good profits on MK and Myson, *wasted time* but hardly any money on Reynolds, ditto Fidelity and, we hope, paid for wretched Court*aulds and its dividend* with one of last year's outstanding stocks, Westland.

I propose to treat this bedraggled collection in more detail soon; for the moment I suggest keeping them all, save Courtaulds. On November 1 I called it a worst buy among a myriad investors (how true) and *now it is, they say, the best buy,* the cheapest stock in the market.

It may be, *but I also suspect* that recovery at Courtaulds will be painfully slow at best. Perhaps it is the most boring share in the market. Out it goes.

So it is with a sense of guilt *but a sigh of relief that I turn* to our first gamble of 1981. It is not that I expect the stock market suddenly to take wings. I do not. But a little discreet bargain hunting has already begun and one company attracting not a few interesting buyers is M. J. Gleeson (Contractors).

To the casual observer there is no cause for fuss. It is a rock steady, safe-as-houses construction group with a steady, not to say stagnant, record to match. The shares at 61p yield a sober looking 6.4 per cent *and sell at 12.5 times earnings.*

But wait: this 61p is the 1980-81 high; even so, it represents a huge discount on assets of 181p. This is fair enough for a construction group coping with public spending cuts, but *is it fair, I ask rhetorically, for* a construction group turning into a property company? Gleeson is fast accumulating rental income from residential, industrial and commercial developments which it is keeping.

"In due course", said Mr John Gleeson, chairman, in his recent annual statement, "we will seek the requisite permission from the Department of Trade for the company to *change its name* to Gleeson Group." For the Gleesons are keen to be known as men of property.

In the year to last June, Gleeson got about 30 per cent of its total profits of £885,000 from rent. The year before it was only 15 per cent. This year it could be up to 50 per cent of total *profits of*, say, £900,000.

It will obviously take time to put Gleeson shares on a property style yield of 3 per cent, but even a modest rerating would do them a power of good. Here's hoping, anyway.

PW

Sticklepath's spy mystery



Sticklepath was shaken to its foundations the other day when, in the dead of winter, a tourist was observed in the Post Office. All through the summer, of course, the grockles sit *nose to tail in their Ford* Cortinas along the A30 which bisects the village—making it impossible for those on the north side of it to communicate with those on the south except by semaphore. However, a tourist in winter is a rarity and this one was an especial rarity, owing to the fact that he *also* happened *to* be Chinese.

He left the Post Office, and making his way through the little knot of astonished villagers, proceeded to the Grog-Bevington Arms where he asked for a "lefleshing grass of eldelbelly wine". He then inquired of the whereabouts of "*Lieutenant-Coroner Clog-*Bevington", claiming airily in passing to be the son of his ex-batman Ho-Fat in the 4th Heavy Hongkong Hussars.

Being directed to Elderberry Towers, he found the colonel characteristically plastered unconscious; but was given a shed to sleep in with the labradors *by Uriah Stoat, the keeper.*

The next day he was seen on Dartmoor examining the landscape through powerful binoculars. Prison Officer "Wormwood" Scrubbs immediately jumped to the conclusion that he was trying to engineer the escape of a Chinese heroin smuggler who happened to be serving a *20-year sentence* under his care. Shades of Sherlock Holmes and all that were invoked.

Suspicions deepened when the colonel, on awakening two days later for luncheon and being informed of the excitement, announced that batman Ho-Fat and all his family had been sunk in a junk in 1945.

Then suddenly the mysterious *stranger disappeared. Had he* fallen into the Great Grimpen Mire? Or been consumed by Poggles, the Dachshund of the Baskervilles, which had recently taken to roaming over the moor clad in the special phosphores*cent dog sweater knitted* for her by Lady Baskerville in lurex and orange dayglo wool?

A week later all was revealed. He had been none other than an industrial spy in the employ of Sir Too-Non-U, the famous *Hongkong businessman* and chairman of the immensely powerful and inscrutable multinational Flied Lice Shipping and So-on. The object of his interest had been the Great Rockall and Hongkong Mining Company—and in particular its Great Grimpen tin mine, no less.

The story broke when it was announced with banner headlines in the financial press that Flied Lice Shipping and So-on was bidding for the Great Rockall and Hongkong Investment Trust, of which the mining company is a subsidiary. As shareholders, both the Great *Grimpen Mire Investment Club* and the Allied Elderberry Wines Staff Superannuation Fund were, therefore, right in the thick of it—not to mention the fact that the Sticklepath community was sitting on an *intangible* asset of prime interest to all parties, namely the unsold portion of the Great Grimpen Mire and its potential mineral treasure-chest.

The terms of the bid were not yet to be made public, but the battleground was already ringing with the sounds of preliminary warming up—the hammering of armour and the sharpening *of swords.*

Thus, at a press conference in Hongkong, Sir Too-Non-U, severing a copy of the Companies Act in half with one chop of his bare index finger, declared: "We have four weapons—surprise, fear, ruthless attention to detail, and fanatical devotion to duty."

Meanwhile, back at Rockall, chairman Lord Trite of Cricklewood appealed for calm and stressed the necessity of keeping the company in British hands, "for reasons of history, geography and scripture".

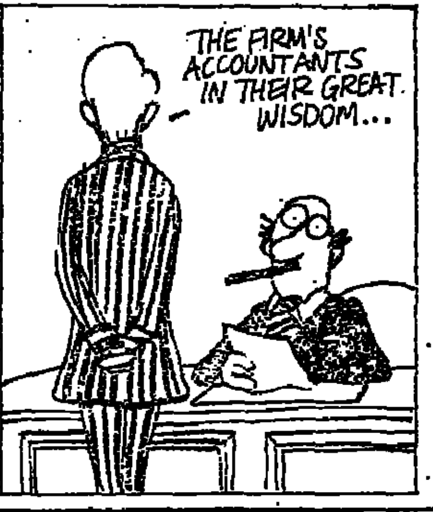
It seemed that almost anything could happen and probably would.

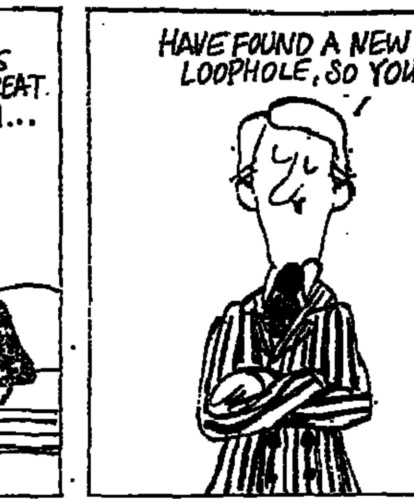
Francis Kinsman

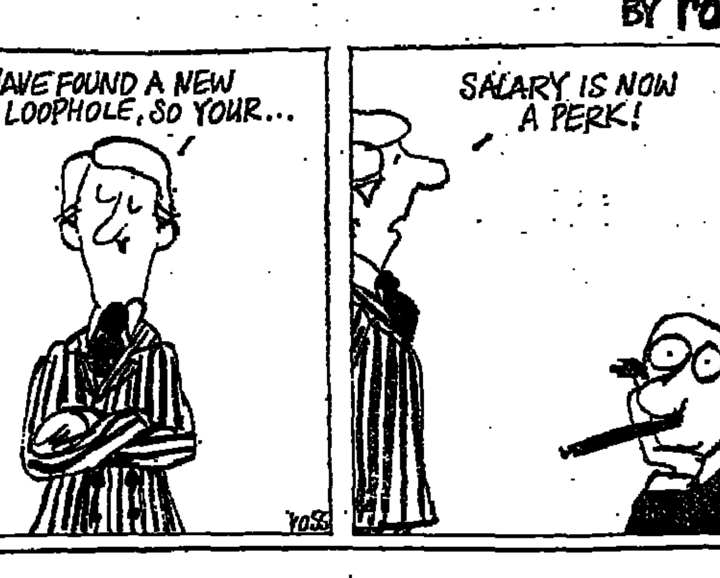
HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH

BY ross









Unit trusts

Is this the way ahead for fund managers?

Good as unit trust sales were last year, they were not good enough. *It may seem churlish* to describe record sales of £531m—a substantial improvement on the *£412m* achieved in 1979—as a classic case of "could do better", but few in the industry would disagree.

The new money coming in has not kept pace with the industry's overall growth; on the other hand, repurchases—the sales of units back to the managers—have kept abreast of funds under management. And because unitholders die, and linked policies mature, the level of *repurchases,* a record £424m last year, is not likely to decrease.

The *accompanying* table shows just how far adrift unit trust sales have gone. As a percentage of funds under management, they have slipped from 22.2 per cent in 1968—the year of the industry's best ever net *sales—to only 10.7 per cent in* 1980.

Repurchases, however, have not altered greatly as a percentage of funds under management, rising from 4.8 per cent twelve years ago to 8.5 per cent last year.

Part of the problem has certainly been the intervention of other savings institutions, which have taken an increasing share of personal investments. High interest rates, for example, have favoured building societies —in the public eye at least— and the insurance industry, particularly the unit-linked end, in terms both of conventional investment bonds and income bonds.

The industry, for its part, has been slow off the mark in making the virtues of its products as well known as some of its drawbacks. Attention, for example, has been focused for too long on performance statistics at the expense of the much more favourable tables showing increase in income, which demonstrate just how well unit trusts have done vis-à-vis some of their more conspicuously income-oriented rivals.

Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of the Unit Trust Association.

Having finally won the freedom to create and market unit trusts specializing in gilt-edged securities, the industry has not yet found them the bonanza they originally promised to be. Gilt funds began to proliferate *from August onwards and by* the end of the year there were 16 of them in the market with a total value of £37m, a not very encouraging average of just over £2m per fund.

Given that it has taken the unit trust industry getting on for 50 years to educate the public about the merits (and drawbacks) and opportunities of investing in equities, Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, is not unduly perturbed about *this slow start* to gilt fund sales. It could all change if the gilt market picks up this year as interest rates begin to fall more dramatically.

This, of course, was the great expectation of 1980; and it may, indeed, be to the industry's advantage that gilts remained fairly disappointing. When the upturn eventually comes, the industry with a wide choice of gilt funds and greater marketing expertise in this area, should be better poised to increase sales.

On a more general note, the industry must also benefit this year from the relative swing in the balance of advantage in its favour away from investment *bonds after the Budget changes* in capital gains tax and income tax rates. Higher rate taxpayers no longer have the same incentive to shelter in a unit-linked assurance bond, while units trusts are totally free of *capital gains tax to investors* with gains below £3,000.

There are other developments in the pipeline, too. Notably, the possibility that the industry may, if its Budget hopes come true, be able to offer cash or deposit funds to unitholders. Whether these funds will prove the runaway marketing success that they have been for the mutual funds industry in the United States is another matter, but they will certainly be a useful adjunct for unit trust management groups.

Cash or deposit funds are exactly what their name suggests: they are unit trusts holding money market instruments—deposits, certificates of deposit, Treasury bills, local authority loans, acceptance notes and bills of exchange to name but *some—and getting the advan*tage of premium wholesale money rates generally not available to the private investor.

There are difficulties — not least because unit trusts, by law, are supposed to invest only in *securities — a term* which does not encompass deposits and so on. The fact that unit trusts have from time to time to go liquid, partially at least, clearly makes a nonsense of this particular regulation. But the Department of Trade's *tolerance* towards short-term cash investments, has yet to be extended to a full-bodied investment programme in money.

Another drawback which, in Mr Messer's opinion, can only be *solved by the abolition* of the unit trust instrument duty, is the two-tier price structure of unit trusts. A separate bid and offer price for money units is unlikely to prove endearing to prospective unitholders.

The managers could probably manage to waive all the other charges and elements associated with the traditional 7·8 per cent spread between the bid or buying price from unitholders and offer or selling price to *unitholders, but the* ½ per cent instrument duty is an immovable object which will necessitate a price *spread.*

If the Inland Revenue (and its Treasury overlords) do remove this barrier, then the way ahead for cash funds will clear, despite the several technical problems which are in*volved. But the unit trust* industry would be made immeasurably happier if, having gone so far, the Revenue unbent farther and allowed the industry to pay interest gross to unitholders.

Then, the industry really would be able to compete effectively with banks and building society deposits, as well as using cash funds as a transit camp for unitholders switching out of one equity fund but uncertain which next to back.

MS

UNIT TRUST SALES 1968-80

Year	Funds under (a) management £m	Sales £m	% of (a) %	Repurchases £m	% of (a) %	Net Sales £m	% of (a) %
1968	1,482.4	328.9	22.2	70.5	4.8	258.5	17.4
1969	1,411.9	252.7	18.6	76.5	5.4	186.2	13.1
1970	1,397.7	171.2	12.2	73.4	5.2	97.8	7.0
1971	1,991.2	204.1	10.2	127.5	6.4	76.7	3.9
1972	2,647.5	436.9	16.4	195.6	7.4	241.3	9.1
1973	2,060.4	357.9	17.3	171.8	8.3	185.2	9.0
1974	1,310.8	194.9	14.9	110.2	8.4	84.7	6.4
1975	2,512.4	321.2	12.7	130.9	5.2	190.3	7.6
1976	2,543.0	333.4	13.0	165.9	6.5	167.5	6.6
1977	3,461.3	372.3	10.7	257.9	7.5	114.4	3.3
1978	3,373.4	529.7	15.7	294.1	8.7	235.6	6.9
1979	3,936.7	412.0	10.4	353.9	9.0	58.1	1.5
1980	4,968.0	531.5	10.7	423.9	8.5	107.6	2.2

Calculations based on year-end figures.

Tyndall's Money Fund

The case for cash unit trusts (see above) was reinforced this week by Tyndall's launch of a Money Fund, for private investors, and the Demand Fund, geared to professional money managers, offering investors the chance to obtain the higher rates in the money markets.

The Money Fund pays interest—2 points more than bank deposits is sought—gross and offers cheque book facilities, too. The managers hope that Tyndall unitholders will use the service when switching funds.

Tax liability on sale of mother's home

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

Readers' Forum

Ten years ago my mother transferred her flat into my name. When she dies, or is for any other reason unable to use it, I shall wish to sell it, as I have my own home. What will be my tax liability, and what would the position have been if the flat had remained in my mother's name? (I am the sole beneficiary in her will.) (RNR, London, NW3.)

I assume that you are now *the legal owner of the property* and that your mother lives there rent free. Any gain on the eventual disposal of the property will probably be exempt from Capital Gains Tax under the Dependant Relative Exemp*tion. If you retain the property* after your mother ceases to live there, then part of the gain may be chargeable, the proportion being ascertained on a time basis. The gain will be the surplus arising on a disposal over the market value when you acquired the flat from your mother. I recommend that you study the free Inland Revenue publication capital gains tax 8 and especially paragraph 73.

If your mother had retained *ownership of her flat,* it would form part of her estate on her death. No capital gains tax liability would arise on the market value at that time. However, a liability to Capital Transfer Tax could then arise, depending on the size of your mother's estate and the lifetime gifts and capital transfer made by her since March 26, 1974.

I am a widow in the late sixties. *At the time of my husband's* death I/we owned a family house and a country cottage; to which we intended to retire. Both houses were registered in both our names. The cottage was unsuitable for me to live in alone, so I sold the family house and bought another smaller house. I have four children and would like to leave as much as possible to them. My total estate including the house I live in, but not the cottage, is probably not worth more than £50,000.

(i) Is there any way in which I can make over the country cottage to my four children, or give them joint ownership with me and avoid them having to pay capital transfer tax?

(ii) I/we have owned the cottage for six years, and before my husband died three years ago, we had spent at least £2,000 on renovating it, and I have spent more since. We paid £8,000 *for it.* If I sold the cottage soon, would I have to pay capital gains tax? (JRA, *Oxford*).

It is a pity that you are now outside the period allowed for a deed of family arrangement. Basically one is permitted for capital transfer tax and capital gains tax purposes to rewrite the provisions of a will within two years of the death, and *these provisions could have* applied in relation to your husband's estate.

It is possible for you to give away £2,000 per annum without attracting capital transfer tax and you can carry forward the benefit of this "allowance" for one year. In addition, gifts of £250 may be made to different beneficiaries. So, assuming that you have not used your £2,000 exemption for this year or last year, you can give away a total of £5,000 to your four children without it having any capital *transfer tax consequences* (2 x £2,000 plus 4 x £250). The capital transfer tax year ends on April 5 and in 1981/82 you can give away a further £3,000 if you so desire (£2,000 allowance plus 4 x £250). You might consider making use of the annual allowances by giving your children loan notes secured on your country cottage.

Capital gains tax may arise on a sale of the cottage. Your "*cost*" for capital gains tax will probably be taken as half the original cost and improvements during your husband's lifetime *plus* half the value of *the property at the time of his* death *plus* the cost of any further improvements made since that time. If the sale proceeds do not exceed the aggregate of those amounts by more than £3,000 and you have no *other capital gains then no* tax will actually be payable.

My husband's mother died 20 years ago and left her house to her husband for life and then to my husband and she left her money to his brother. At the time of her death the house value equalled the money. *Now when it is sold* at my father-in-laws' death the house will be worth far more. My husband is anxious to make it equal. Is it possible to arrange this before his father's death as to give it away afterwards would involve capital transfer tax and he would not want to use the allowable £25,000 as we have *children to* consider? (CWR, Oxford.)

Because your mother-in-law died before November 13, 1974, leaving the house in trust for her husband's enjoyment during his lifetime, the property will almost certainly be exempt from capital transfer tax on *his death (for persons who* died after that date the reverse rule generally applies, so that *capital transfer tax is charged* only on property left to a surviving spouse on the latter's death).

Your husband has a "reversionary interest" in the property. A disposal, either in whole or in part, of a reversionary interest does not attract capital transfer tax (unless the reversion was purchased). Your husband can either dispose of part of his *reversionary interest* before his father's death or he can leave matters until then and take advantage of the "deed of family arrangement" provisions.

This is a technical area and you should consult a solicitor.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Sonic Sound for market via placing

By Our Financial Staff

In the first new issue of the year, London-based hi-fi and video retailer Sonic Sound Audio Holdings is applying for a full Stock Exchange quotation.

Stockbrokers, Earnshaw Haes are placing 2.25m ordinary shares at 80p each, which gives the company a £4.8m market capitalization. Dealings are expected to start on Friday, January 23.

Sonic Sound, formed in 1976, sells hi-fi, radio and electronic equipment from several shops in London's Tottenham Court Road. It also licences space in its shops to retailers selling video equipment, etc. Last year, pretax profits were £393,000 on turnover of £2.6m and this year's profits are expected to be at least £800,000. On this basis, a total dividend of 6.4p gross will be paid, giving an 8 per cent yield at the placing price while the fully taxed p/e ratio is 12.5.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

Stock markets

Buyers come in after inflation news

Equities maintained their technical rally yesterday helped by a continuing bear squeeze and several cheap buyers.

Sentiment was given a long awaited boost when the retail price index showed another slowdown in the rate of inflation during December from 15.3 per cent to 15.1 per cent. Buyers soon appeared and leading industrials reacted favourably in the thin conditions with small gains across the board.

Overnight strength on Wall St. amid talk of one of the severest winters in the United States on record, brought a much needed boost to oils with double figure gains in most of the majors.

However, business almost fizzled out in the late afternoon as the trade figures showed a fall in the surplus during December from £455m to £256m. Little selling, if any, was reported but it was enough to discourage further interest. As a result, the *FT* Index closed 3.4 higher at 451.9, having been up 4.6 at 2 pm, for a fall on the week of 9.3.

Gilts made an uncertain start, worried by the Government's inability to control spending. This resulted in falls at around £½.

However, encouraged by the slowdown in the rate of inflation they soon recovered, aided by rumours that the Treasury were about to announce some new 1-year Treasury Bills to help finance government spending. By the close, rises of around £½ were recorded in longs while at the shorter end gains of £¼ were recorded.

After a firm start leading industrials trailed off and at the close were showing a fairly mixed appearance. ICI ended with a 2p fall at 294p amid renewed worries over the dividend payment due next month.

Bowater leapt 13p to 177p as speculation about an oil find on one of its Canadian ventures gathered pace. Elsewhere, rises were seen in Blue Circle, 4p to 330p, GKN 3p to 149p, Beechams 2p to 168p and Rank Organisation 2p to 152p. Grand Metropolitan hardened another 2p to 147p following impressive figures earlier in the week.

In financials, shares of UDT closed unchanged at 50p, after 48p, in the wake of the surprise £32m bid from Lloyds & Scottish, also unchanged at 142p. But speculation was mounting last night that UDT might be the subject of a counter bid before too long.

Speculative attention was therefore directed at several other old takeover favourites including Wagon Finance, up 5p at 38p, and First National Finance Corp 2½p to 25½p. R. P. Martin made up ground on a buy recommendation, climbing 8p to 148p—a 24p rise in two days.

Tarmac hardened 3p to 240p following its proposals for a road and rail link with France, which in turn, boosted Channel Tunnel 9p to 132p. Speculative demand was good for a 14p rise in Vosper at 100p, a 25p rise in Burnett & Hallamshire at 502p and a 15p rise in Haden Carrier at 173p. Massey Ferguson recovered 35p to 170p.

Shares of Inveresk paper leapt 11½p to 36p on news that they were engaged in talks which might lead to a bid, and in properties New Cavendish, formerly Lidstone, were requoted up 50p to 330p.

Trading losses and cut dividends had Cantors 2p off at 38p with Grant Bros 5p easier at 95p but Letraset held steady at 86p despite a profits contraction. BET drifted 5p to 114p following recent figures, along with S & W Berisford a similar amount to 178p.

Electricals had Electrocomponents down 45p at 615p following a line of over 200,000 on offer while recent comment knocked Unitech again 16p to 242p. But Muirhead's recent trading loss prompted speculation of a bid by Tyco Laboratories hoisting the shares 12p to 78p.

In the meantime, double-figure gains in oils had BP 12p higher at 404p. Shell 14p to 456p, Tricentrol 10p to 316p and Ultramar 7p to 495p. Among second liners comment lifted Premier Cons 5½p to 99½p with Berkeley Exp 13p stronger at 213p.

Equity turnover on January 13 was £100.291m (13,876 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Royal Insurance, GEC, Premier, Burmah, Shell, UDT, GKN, ICI, Plessey, Unilever, BP, De Beers, BBA, BSR, and Inchcape.

Traded options had a slightly better day with 968 contracts. BP took 352 of those with the April 360 most active. Shell January 460s were also busy.

Traditional options saw calls arranged in Premier at 9½p, Berkeley Exploration at 27p and FNFC at 2½p, and no puts.

A bullish drilling report appears imminent from Oil Co of Australia, which is reported to have found traces of hydrocarbons on its Bowen Basin project in Eastern Australia. In addition, its far more lucrative project with BP on the west coast, in which it holds 40 per cent, starts its first test next week. The shares rose 1p to 34p yesterday.

Shares in shipping group Stag Line, for which Hunting Gibson has bid 355p cash a share, closed another 5p up at 375p. Gossip is that Stag directors and family, who can muster about 40 per cent of the equity, will stick out for a higher offer.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Atlantic Assets (I)	—(—)	0.23(0.42)	0.17(0.82)	—(—)	—	—(—)
British Benzol (I)	6.65(10.66)	1.28‡(0.56)	13.7(4.7)	—(1)	—	—(2)
Cantors (I)	7.75(9.04)	0.82‡(0.15)	12.13‡(1.94)	—(0.92)	—	—(2.3)
Centreway (I)	1.8(1.87)	0.08‡(0.21)	19.8(11.6)	Nil(2)	—	—(—)
Dewhurst & Prt (F)	3.54(3.92)	0.03(0.14)	0.1(1.45)	0.15(—)	6/4	0.15(0.92)
Grange Trust (F)	—(—)	0.63(0.62)	4.14(3.42)	2.6(—)	6/3	3.7(3.2)
Letraset (I)	32.8(35.5)	3.49(5.36)	3.13(9.29)	1.09(1.09)	3/3	—(7.14)
Phoenix Mining (F)	1.69(1.58)	0.006‡(0.02‡)	0.4‡(0.01)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Raeburn Inv (F)	—(—)	1.9(1.85)	6.94(5.81)	4.35(—)	23/2	6.35(6.35)
Utd Guarantee (F)	10.8(6.01)	0.008*(0.24†)	0.17(0.461)	0.26(—)	—	0.5(0.5)
Western Ed Mills (I)	1.81(1.8)	0.76(0.65)	—(—)	1.7(—)	6/3	—(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * Attributable loss after tax credit of £124,500. † Attributable profit. ‡ Loss.

British Benzol plunges into loss

By Margareta Pagano

The loss of British Steel as its prime customer has strangled trading at British Benzol Carbonising, which plunged to a loss and passed its interim dividend in the half-year to September.

The coke and smokeless fuel makers lost £1.28m in the period against pretax profits of £560,000 last time, on sales which also fell heavily to £6.6m from £10.66m. Last year the interim gross was 1.42p.

The losses came as no surprise to Mr John Sutherland, the chairman, who warned shareholders after last year's result that the first half would bear heavy losses. He repeated yesterday that the results are the direct consequence of the situation given in the annual report which told of the severe effect of the engineering and steel strikes on the year to March.

British Steel did not return as a customer to the group after the strikes, when stocks started to build up, but decided itself to become a net coke seller, and thus a competitor.

Last year saw problems in its South Wales plant but operating conditions have been improved with agreed reduced manning levels. Sales have been affected by reduced demand from the foundry industry.

Fitch Lovell falls 27 pc to £4.3m at half time

By Rosemary Unsworth

Fitch Lovell, the food group which has made an agreed bid for Joseph Stocks has turned in a reduced profit for the first half, following problems in the poultry and canned fruit and vegetable businesses.

Pretax profits slipped by 27 per cent from £5.9m to £4.3m, while sales rose 9 per cent to £318.4m in the 26 weeks to October 25, 1980. The manufacturing side, which provides nearly half the trading profit, managed a small increase from £2.9m to £3m with an initial contribution from Bells Bacon, acquired in August 1980. But the canned fruit and vegetable operations performed badly as consumer demand plummeted.

The retail sector, which includes the Keymarkets chain, also boosted profits from £1.85m to £2.45m and four more stores will be opened during the second half, whose costs of £326,000 have already been absorbed, although the group's short-term borrowings have increased substantially. However, the plan is to fund the expansion through sales and lease-backs.

The increased profit from the the bacon division of Lovell & Christmas was slightly offset by low returns from the dairy products side although there was an improvement from the cash and carry subsidiaries.

Poultry had a difficult first half with over-capacity in the frozen chicken business which ensured a continued softening of prices and increased imports. This is unlikely to change before the end of the current year.

The fisheries side of the agricultural division has benefited from changes in Government policy on fish farming. Profits from the division amounted to £16,000 compared with £944,000 last time.

Insulation materials also suffered a setback as Government grants were not increased last year and contributed to a profits fall in that division of more than £600,000 to £375,000.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.13p gross and Mr Michael Webster, chairman, said in the absence of unforeseen circumstances — the final will be the same as last year's 5.3p gross.

Joseph Stocks' halftime results, also released with Fitch Lovell's showed a profits decline from £385,000 to £294,000 with turnover rising by £3m to £26m. There is no interim dividend because of the offer.

Cantors passes interim after loss

By Our Financial Staff

Household furniture retailer Cantors has passed its interim dividend after a collapse in demand in its first half to October 25, led to an £825,000 loss before tax. The company says it intends to pay a token final dividend.

Turnover fell by 14 per cent to £7.75m, but demand has now improved and the company is trading profitably after nine months of loss-making. Mr Nicholas Jeffrey, the chief executive, said yesterday that there was little likelihood of the company breaking even for the full year.

Briefly

Allied London Properties: Recent rights issue more than 91 per cent accepted.

Grange Trust: Pretax profit for year to November 30, 1980 £627,000 (£617,000). Dividend 5.28p gross (4.57p). Eps 4.14p (3.42p). Net asset value a share 149.9p (103.9p).

W. Williams and Sons (Holdings): Chairman says that in order to more fully utilize resources of group, board has recently decided to relocate Vale Castings (B.S.) at the Caerphilly site, where space and facilities are more than adequate, and to dispose of the Pontyclun site. Result will be a much improved cash flow.

Pittard Group says that contracts have been exchanged for sale to Arunbridge Industrial Estates Limited £1.49m in cash of the freehold site at Beckenham, Kent, formerly occupied by the Group's subsidiary R & A Kohnstamm Ltd.

Atlantic Assets Trust: Pretax profits for half year to December 31, £235,000 (£422,000). Eps 0.18p (0.82p adjusted).

United Guarantee (Holdings): Turnover for year to September 30 £10.86m (£6.0m). Attributable loss £9,000 (profit £238,000) after all charges and a tax credit of £124,500 (debit £161,000). Loss per share 0.17p (earnings 4.617p). Dividend held at 0.71p gross.

Dewhurst and Partner: Turnover for year to September 28 £3.54m (£3.92m). Net profit £7,000 (£165,000) after tax of £24,000 (£34,000). Dividend is 0.15p and net (0.92p).

Dobson Park buys US group

Dobson Park Industries is to buy the outstanding shares at Marathon Industries of Montgomery, West Virginia, for $10.82m (£4.5m).

The consideration will be satisfied by 4.76m new ordinary shares which have been placed provisionally with institutional investors in the United Kingdom.

Marathon had net tangible assets at October 31 at $8.63m (£3.6m).

Oceana purchase may aid relisting

Oceana Holdings is to acquire Contract Clean (Southern) for £390,000 satisfied by issue in shares. CC cleans commercial premises in Southern England and in the year to April 25 it had a combined turnover of £1.9m and an adjusted pretax profit of £130,000.

With the addition of CC, the enlarged group will have three complementary profit centres together with a small property development division. It hopes to apply during the current year for re-listing of the companies' shares on the Stock Exchange and in due course to recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares.

UDT is considering Lloyds and Scottish bid

The board of UDT says that it is considering the approach received from Lloyds and Scottish and, in doing so, is also considering the proposals relating to UDT's instalment credit business, announced in conjunction with the Trustee Savings Bank Group in August last year. A further announcement will be made in due course.

Phoenix Mining reduces its losses

Over the year to September 30, turnover of Phoenix Mining and Finance rose from £1.58m to £1.69m and losses were cut from £16,000 to £6,000. There is no dividend.

The pretax losses were struck before debiting £128,000 of extraordinary items, against £100,000.

Since the year end, the acquisition of certain properties from Burrows (Builders) and the issue in consideration of 5m ordinary shares in the company has taken place.

Commodities

COPPER closed barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £77[illegible]-779.50 a metric ton; three months, £800-800.50. Sales, 4,300. Cash cathodes, £757-758; three months, £780-781.00. Sales, 300 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £782-783; three months, £805-805.50. Settlement, £783.00. Sales, 8,200 tons. [illegible]

TIN.—[illegible]

LEAD [illegible]

ZINC [illegible]

PLATINUM [illegible] a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 621.10p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,390); three months, 643.30p (1,558.50c); six months, 667.70p (1,629.30c); one year, 708.30p (1,773.50c). *London Metal Exchange*—Afternoon.—Cash, 625-626p; three months, 645-648p. Sales, 60 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 611-613p; three months, 635-637p. Settlement, 615p. Sales, 132 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £594.50-595 per tonne; three months, £615-616. Sales, 2,125 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £595.60-596; three months, £616-616.50. Settlement, £596. Sales, 2,000 tonnes.

NICKEL was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,665-2,670 per tonne; three months, £2,662-2,665. Sales, 162 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,672-2,680; three months, £2,662-2,665. Settlement, £2,680. Sales, 198 tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain yesterday (pence per kilo):—Feb, 58.00-58.40; March, 59.40-59.70; April-June, 61.80-62.00; July-Sept, 64.80-64.90; Oct-Dec, 67.90-68.00; Jan-March, 70.90-71.00; April-June, 73.80-73.90; July-Sept, 76.80-76.90; Oct-Dec, 79.80-79.90. Sales: 154 lots at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were inactive.—[illegible]

[illegible] Aug, 133.60-134.50; Oct, 130.00-131.00; Dec, 131.10-132.00; Feb, 131.40-136.00. Sales: 222 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract, cents per kilo (quiet).—Feb, 340-348; March, 348-352; May, 356-360; Aug, 369-375; Oct, 367-376; Dec, 376-380; Jan, 379-391; March, 379-383; May, 380-390. Sales: eight lots.

GRAIN. (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring, unquoted. U.S. dark northern spring, No 2, 14 per cent: Feb, £110.30; March, £111.25 trans-shipment east coast sellers. U.S. hard winter, 13½ per cent: Feb, £105.25; March, £105.75 trans-shipment east coast sellers. EEC unquoted. English feed, fob: Feb, £108.25; March, £110.25; April-June, £115.50 east coast sellers.

MAIZE.—French: Jan, 123; Feb, £122.50 east coast sellers. S African white, unquoted. S African yellow: Feb-March, £89.50 seller.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob: Feb, £102.50 paid east coast. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—BARLEY: Current crop steadier; new crop steady.—Jan, £96.00; March, £98.55; May, £102.50; Sept, £96.25; Nov, £100.00. Sales: 179 lots. WHEAT: Current crop firm; new crop slightly easier.—Jan, 105.50; [illegible] 104.80.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices. [illegible]

[illegible] WOOL SALE.—Bradford, Jan 16.—The continued appreciation of sterling resulted in lower prices for several of the Commonwealth wools offered at auction here yesterday, the official report states.

Bidding was rather restricted, with both home and continental buyers cautious and Wool Board activity was higher than for some time.

Greasy wools were generally unchanged, but better-style scoured fleece and shears were around 1.5 per cent cheaper than in December. Poorer styles were rather more discounted and values were fully 2.5 per cent lower.

Discount market

The large call on the Treasury, 11½ per cent stock, 1989, was mainly responsible for the very *tight* credit conditions experienced in the discount market yesterday. Bank of England assistance on an extremely large scale was required to alleviate the shortage of day-to-day funds. Secured rates held firm throughout, with houses paying between 13½ and 14 per cent for fresh funds.

Foreign exchange report

Strong for most of the day, anticipating a poor set of U.S. money supply figures, perhaps as much as $7,000m to $10,000m higher, swollen by social security payments earlier this month, the dollar reacted *sharply during* the final half hour or so of trading on the foreign exchange markets.

Expectations are that a hardening of interest rates could result from any further upset in U.S. monetary policy. Also a "bullish" factor was news from Algeria that American and other international bankers had arrived to work out a "package" to facilitate the release of the Iranian hostages.

However, nervous profit-taking developed late yesterday to cut back good gains by the dollar, with some dealers wondering whether the "Fed" was buying other currencies lest payment in dollars should prove unacceptable to the Iranians.

The pound spent a quietly firm session, despite the slightly disappointing U.K. trade figures for December.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 16	Market rates (close) January 16	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.3920-4030	$2.3925-3935	1.35-1.45c disc	2.90-3.00c disc
Montreal	$2.8500-8610	$2.8505-8515	.95-1.05c disc	2.15-2.30c disc
Amsterdam	5.20-28fl	5.21-22fl	2½-1½c prem	6¾-5¾c prem
Brussels	77.00-77.00f	77.05-20f	20-10c prem	44-34c prem
Copenhagen	14.74-91k	14.74-76k	40 prem-145ore disc	90 disc-275ore disc
Dublin	1.2820-2790p	1.2820-2840p	15 prem-3p prem	30-10p prem
Frankfurt	4.78½-86½m	4.79½-80½m	2⅝-1⅝pf prem	6⅝-5⅝pf prem
Lisbon	122.50-129.90e	128.70-129.00e	10-80c disc	35-190c disc
Madrid	193.60-194.60p	193.65-80p	35-95c disc	375-475c disc
Milan	2280-2301lr	2280-82lr	2½-4½lr disc	16½-19½lr disc
Oslo	12.54-61k	12.54½-56½k	580-405ore prem	1245-1070ore prem
Paris	11.08-21f	11.09½-09½f	4½-3½c prem	9½-8½c prem
Stockholm	10.68-75k	10.68-70k	350-445ore disc	1145-1240ore disc
Tokyo	482-90y	484-86y	320-235y prem	765-690y prem
Vienna	34.00-34sch	34.00-10sch	11-8gro prem	32-26gro prem
Zurich	4.34-42f	4.34½-35½f	3¾-2¾c prem	9½-8½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971, was up 0.3% at 80.0%.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0235-2.0395
Bahrein	0.9015-0.9045
Finland	9.3170-9.3570
Greece	111.75-113.75
Hongkong	12.4115-12.4515
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6490-0.6520
Malaysia	5.3255-5.3595
Mexico	53.25-56.75
New Zealand	2.4970-2.5070
Saudi Arabia	7.9665-7.9967
Singapore	4.9840-5.0740
South Africa	1.7910-1.8060

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	80.0	−24.5
US dollar	87.3	−7.0
Canadian dollar	79.7	−15.6
Schilling	145.6	+21.4
Belgian franc	110.8	+10.1
Danish kroner	100.6	−9.4
Deutsche mark	145.0	+29.8
Swiss franc	184.9	+76.1
Guilder	122.2	+16.7
French franc	95.7	−7.9
Lira	49.7	−53.1
Yen	145.7	+42.8

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.8530-1.8560
† Canada	1.1912-1.1915
Netherlands	2.1800-2.1830
Belgium	32.30-32.40
Denmark	6.2075-6.2125
West Germany	2.0040-2.0060
Portugal	53.80-53.90
Spain	80.82-80.92
Italy	958.00-959.00
Norway	5.2475-5.2525
France	4.6340-4.6380
Sweden	4.4685-4.4735
Japan	202.50-202.70
Austria	14.22-14.27
Switzerland	1.8155-1.8185

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1: US$ .8392-.8395

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate*	% change adjusted**	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.5266	+4.37	−0.77	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.94027	+2.81	−0.79	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.55257	+4.05	+0.45	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.96990	+2.10	−1.50	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.80722	+2.32	−1.28	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.650216	−2.29	−0.31	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1226.29	+5.92	+2.31	4.08

* changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
** adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%
(Last changed 24/11/80)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%
Discount Mkt Loans %
Weekend High 14 Low 13¼
Week Fixed: 14-13¾

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13	2 months	12⅞
3 months	12⅞	3 months	12¹³⁄₁₆

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	13²⁵⁄₃₂-13¹¹⁄₁₆	3 months	14½
3 months	13¹³⁄₁₆-13½	4 months	14¼
4 months	13½-13¹³⁄₃₂	6 months	13⅞
6 months	12⅞-12¾		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15½-15¼	7 months	14⅞-14½
2 months	15¼-15⅛	8 months	14⅝-14½
3 months	15-14¾	9 months	14¼-14
4 months	14¾-14½	10 months	14¼-14
5 months	14⅝-14⅜	11 months	14¼-14
6 months	14½-14⅛	12 months	13⅞-13⅝

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14⅝-14½	6 months	13²⁷⁄₃₂-13²³⁄₃₂
3 months	14⅛-14¼	12 months	13½-13⅜

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14-13⅞	3 months	14⁵⁄₁₆-14¼
7 days	14¼-14	6 months	13⅞
1 month	14⅝	1 year	13⅝-13½

Interbank Market (%)

Weekend: Open 14⅛ Close 14

1 week	14¼-14	6 months	14-13²⁷⁄₃₂
1 month	14⁷⁄₁₆-14⁵⁄₁₆	9 months	13²⁹⁄₃₂-13⅝
3 months	14⁷⁄₁₆-14¼	12 months	13²⁷⁄₃₂-13²¹⁄₃₂

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months 14⁹⁄₁₆-14⅜ 6 months 14⅛-14⁹⁄₁₆

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Treasury Bill Tender

Applications	£387	allotted	£100m
Bids at	£96.79	received	90%
Last week	£96.77½	received	38%
Average rate	12.8547	Last week	12.9949
Next week	£100m	replace	£200m

Euro-$ Deposits

[illegible] calls, 19¾-20¾; seven days, 19¾-21; one month, 18⅞-19⅛; three months, 17⅝-17⅞; six months, [illegible]

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $580.75 (an ounce); pm, $561.50; close, $579-581 (£241.25-242.25).
Krugerrand (per coin): $141-143 (£58.75-59.75).

Wall Street

New York, Jan 16.—Prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed higher as the NYSE index rose 0.34 to 77.33 and the average price per share 16 cents.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 3.32 to 973.29, bringing its gain for the week to 4.60. Advances led declines 879 to 637 as volume expanded to 43,360,000 shares from 39,640,000 yesterday.

After the close, the Federal Reserve said the basic money stock rose $1,600m but a broader measure, which includes additional types of bank deposits, surged a record $11,400m.

Active American Telephone rose 1¼ to 50¼. Dan River climbed 2¼ to 19¼. *An investor group led by* a California businessman bought a 6.2 per cent stake in Dan River.

Some drug stocks were weak. The Food and Drug Administration proposed removing from the market 18 drugs prescribed for gastrointestinal disorders.

Mr Robert Stovall of Dean Witter Reynolds said if the hostage situation were not resolved when Mr Reagan took over, it "would distract Reagan and his squad from the business at hand, which is to straighten out the economy."

Gains by IBM and American Telephone also aided the market. *Volume leader* IBM rose ⅛ to 66⅞. It reported strong fourth quarter net but analysts said the news was not as glowing as it first appeared because of special tax and other items.

	Jan 16	Jan 15
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Jan 16	Jan 15
Pst Nat Boston	[illegible]	36
Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ford	19⅞	19⅝
GAF Corp	14	13⅞
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

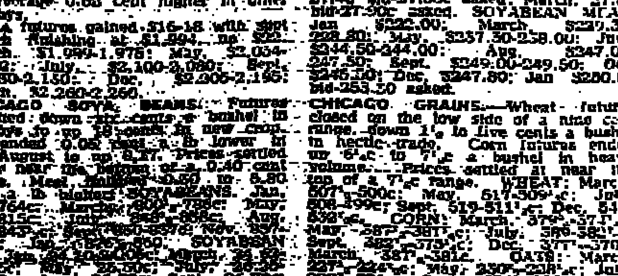
	Jan 16	Jan 15
Pub Ser El & Gas	18¼	18⅜
Rapid American	24½	24⅛
Raytheon	102	101¾
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

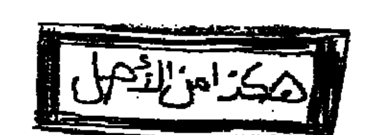
US commodities

SILVER futures rallied 20 to 27 cents. Jan, 1500.00c; Feb, 1520.00c; March, 1541.00-1549.00c; May, 1585.00-1592.00c; July, 1627.00c; Sept, 1677.00c; Dec, 1735.00c; Jan, 1764.50c; March, 1807.50c; May, 1850.50c; July, 1893.50c; Sept, 1934.50c.

GOLD gained $4 an ounce to $565-567. CHICAGO IMM.—Jan, $562.50 bid; March, $574.00-[illegible]

[illegible]





هكذا من الأصل

Stock Exchange Prices

Bear squeeze

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS							
99¼	89	Treas	9½% 1981	99¼	..	9.825	13.713
97⅝	91	Exch	8¼% 1981	97⅞	..	8.429	13.978
98¼	91	Exch	9½% 1981	98¼ ●	..	9.688	13.462
96½	88½	Exch	3% 1981	94½ ●	..	3.173	13.136
100¼	93¾	Exch	12¾% 1981	99¼	-1/16	12.782	13.025
96¾	88	Treas	8¼% 1980-82	96¾	-1/16	8.531	12.864
93¼	81⅝	Treas	3% 1982	93¾ ●	+¼	3.200	9.209
102¾	96⅞	Treas	14% 1982	100⅝	..	13.904	13.342
95⅝	85¾	Treas	8¾% 1982	93⅞	..	8.795	13.025
96⅞	85⅞	Exch	9¼% 1982	93⅞	..	9.854	13.443
92¾	84⅞	Exch	8¼% 1983	92⅞	+1/16	9.428	14.021
87⅞	75½	Exch	3% 1983	86¼ ●	..	3.486	10.624
99⅞	85¾	Treas	12% 1983	97¾	-1/16	12.301	13.480
[illegible]	84¼	Treas	9½% 1983	92¾	..	10.027	13.005
103⅞	94¼	Exch	13½% 1983	100¾	..	13.466	13.373
[illegible]	84⅝	Exch	10% 1983	92¾	..	10.540	13.304
94⅞	76⅝	Fund	5½% 1982-84	94⅞	..	6.409	11.743
97¾	86⅞	Exch	11¼% 1984	94⅞ ●	..	11.859	13.348
104¼	94½	Exch	14% 1984	101¾	..	13.708	13.346
79½	64¼	Exch	3% 1984	78¾	..	3.810	10.574
100⅞	88	Treas	12% 1984	96⅞	..	12.451	13.255
106¾	95⅞	Treas	15% 1985	105¾ ●	..	14.210	13.209
75½	65⅝	Treas	3% 1985	73⅞	..	4.090	10.563
MEDIUMS							
101¼	89½	Exch	12¼% 1985	96⅞	-1/16	12.661	13.164
97¼	79½	Exch	11½% 1986	90⅞	..	12.192	13.553
97⅞	75⅞	Treas	8¾% 1984-86	94⅞	..	10.021	12.464

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Wales

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Wales

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South Coast

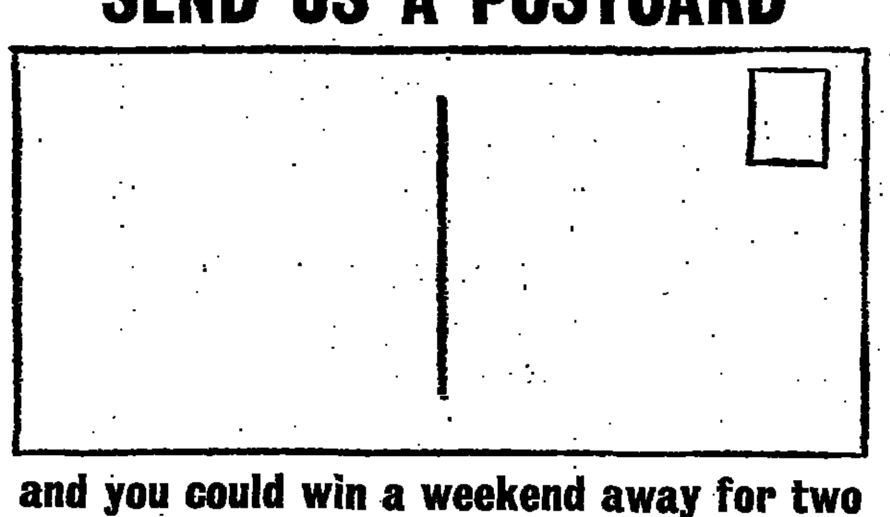
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South Coast

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South Coast

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The family-run hotel renowned for its friendly atmosphere, personal service and good food. Open all year. Christmas programme. Special weekend breaks £24.75 inclusive of 2 days full board and V.A.T. Full details from:

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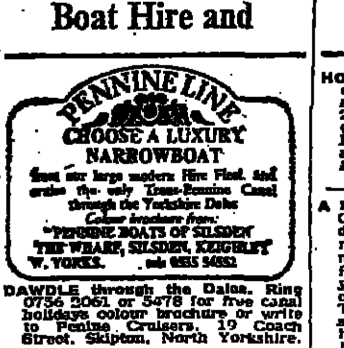
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DAWDLE through the Dales. Ring 0756 2061 or 5478 for free canal holidays colour brochure or write to Pennine Cruisers, 19 Coach Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire.

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Tops From £32 FOR CHILDREN

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Lake District

5. CUMBRIA.—Farmhouse sleeps 7. April-July, lovely position, sea & mountains, ideal children. From £86 p.w. 01-602 6325.

WEEKEND BREAKS.—There's a special welcome for you with the hospitality & personal service of a family-owned hotel in village centre perfectly located for Dales & Lakes. Book now for a 2 night weekend from only £30 including morning tea, coffee, English breakfast & dinner. George & Dragon Hotel, Main Street, Dent, Nr. Sedbergh, Cumbria. Tel: Dent (05875) 256.

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DELIGHTFUL MODERNISED cottage in farming hamlet near Appleby-in-Westmorland. Sleeps 6. Sae. £73 p.w. Carlisle (0228) 31912.

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17-CENT. manor. 278, Cumberworth Lane, Denby Dale, HD8 8RU.

Lake District

HORNBY CASTLE, Lancs.—historic cottages/flat with great charm and character. Well-equipped for 2-6 people. Set in beautiful grounds with superb views, near lakes, dales, sea. Fishing, riding and shooting available. From £40 p.w. Tel. (0468) 21291.

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Ride through beautiful Northumbrian countryside this year. Terrific holiday! Excellent horses for novice and expert. FREE colour brochure. £99
NORTHUMBRIA HORSE RIDING HOLIDAYS, East Castle, STANLEY, Co. Durham. Tel: 0207-35354 (24hrs)

DEAL, KENT.—Available during Open, near course, small cottage, single bedroom, sleeps 3, with additional put-you-up in lounge. (sleep maximum 4 people), plus bathroom and kitchen. Offers to rent over £500, references required. Tel: Medway 812273 (office hours), Medway 78960 (eves).

COME PONY TREKKING this year in beautiful Perthshire from £95 p.w. inclusive. Enquiries to Annaty Cottage, Bonhard by Perth. Tel.: 0738 51157.

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING among the highest peaks and loneliest glens in U.K. Last week in Feb. and last week in March. Adults only.—Outward Bound, Loch Eil, Achdalieu, Fort William, Inverness-shire. Tel. 039 77320.

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Scotland

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KINLOCH LODGE HOT[illegible]

A former shooting lodge, [illegible] a small, comfortable ho[illegible] with superb views down [illegible] Sound of Sleat, and across the Cuillins. We specialize [illegible] excellent food using imagin[illegible]tion, skill and as much lo[illegible] game and seafood as possib[illegible] Under the personal supervisi[illegible] of Lord and Lady Macdonal[illegible] Stalking and fishing availa[illegible] in season. For reservatio[illegible] please write to Lo[illegible] Macdonald, Kinloch Lod[illegible] Hotel, Sleat, Isle of Skye.

Egon Ronay recommended.

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CRIEFF. Perthshire house slps 4 [illegible] £60-£110. (073 888) 244.

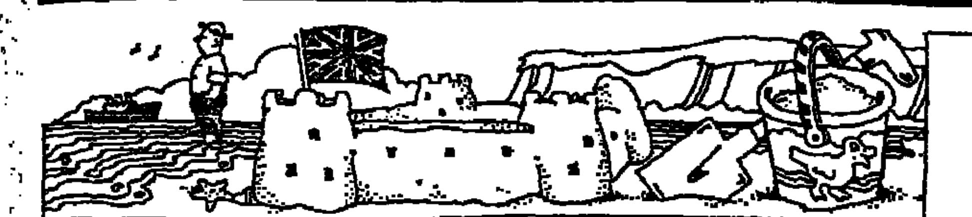
OVER 30 SELF-CATERING cot[illegible] properties. Free brochure. S[illegible] please. Bell-Ingram, Durn [illegible] Road, Perth. Tel.: 0738 21[illegible] (24 hr. ans. serv.).

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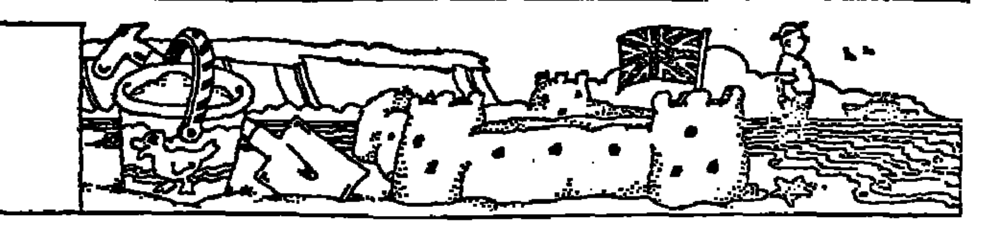
HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS. Ch[illegible] Inverness, Fort William. 5 [illegible] or more from £62.50 D.B[illegible] 7 nts. B. & B. from £46. (Ch[illegible] ren free in parents room). [illegible] Weekender from £23. Tour[illegible] Centred Holidays and travel [illegible]clusive packages available. Col[illegible] brochure, tariff from Fi[illegible] MacNay, Milton Hotels, Fort W[illegible]liam, Inverness-shire. Tel. (03[illegible]) 5154.

SW SCOTLAND.—Luxury log hou[illegible] sleeps 10. Loch view, colour T[illegible] bar, restaurant, fishing & ri[illegible] on site, sea and golf near[illegible] Weekends or longer. Whole [illegible] except: Easter, Spring [illegible] Holiday, July & August. [illegible] from £90 p.w. Tel 0[illegible] 815017.

NOTICE.



Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland



Museums and minster, not forgetting a plethora of pubs

Yorkshire is far too large to treat as one unit. *When the Vikings sailed up the Ouse* and founded their colony in the ninth century, they divided it *into three, calling* each a "thrydding". Despite the local government reorganization which tried to throw this historical division in the bin, Yorkshire *still considers itself* to be carved into three "thryddings" or ridings.

A visitor to Yorkshire should take the Viking example. Take the county *slowly, a little at a time,* and the full benefits of each rich area can be enjoyed. A *good starting point is* to stay in York, known to the ancient British as Caer *Ebrauc, to the Vikings as* Jorvik and to the Romans as Eboracum.

The white walls which surround the city are based upon Roman foundations. What *can be seen now is* largely a fraud, a Victorian reconstruction and renova*tion of the medieval walls,* with its gates or "bars" at the four points of the compass. It is possible to walk all the way round the city behind the wall's battle*ments, a tiring but reward*ing way to see from a height the extent of the city.

Within the walls there are 20 churches from every period and many times that number of public houses—some say the greatest density of drinking premises in Britain. But the most important building of worship is the Minster, the largest English medieval cathedral, which, from the station, appears to sit like a sphinx upon the muddled roofs of the city.

It took from 1220 to 1470 to build and, thanks to a direct order from Sir Thomas Fairfax, it remains in one piece. The parliamentarians were forbidden to desecrate the glass and carvings after their victory at Marston Moor.

It is one of the most awe-inspiring buildings in Britain. The west front is in the French style: it has a fine perpendicular tower; and the medieval glass, from the fourteenth century, is finer than any outside Chartres. The crypt contains a Roman pillar and is worth a visit to see the ingenuity of the recent underpinning work, which makes up for inadequate foundations by binding them together with stainless *steel rods.*

The north side of the Minster is best seen from the walls, while the south entrance leads to a maze of narrow medieval streets. The Shambles is the best *known, its name deriving* from "shamel", the Old English word for slaughterhouse. It leads to the stupidly named Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma Gate. Down these narrow lanes the houses, now mostly *shops,* are built out over the pavement so that they nearly *shut* out the sky.

York also has a Georgian past. The grand houses built on the slow climb up Micklegate were for those who preferred to leave the rabble in the cluttered *streets on the other side of the Ouse. And there are the* Assembly Rooms, a good example of Anglo-Palladian architecture, built by Lord Burlington in 1731-32. The front of the building was remodelled in Victorian *times, but the over-pillared* hall is perfect.

In front of the high mound of Clifford's Tower, built by Henry III, is the Castle Museum, which shows York as it was from *the Tudors until the begin*ning of the twentieth century by reconstructing whole streets and shop fronts. York is also famous for its other magnificent museum, the Railway Museum, near the station, which contains many pristine steam engines and *allows visitors to climb up* into the cab to see how it was driven. From time to time exhibits are taken on special expeditions to Scarborough to let off steam.

York is right in the *centre of Yorkshire.* The villages close by, such as Buttercrambe, Sheriff Hutton and the strange mock-French village of Ripley, built to a whim of Sir William Amcotts Ingilby in *1827, make a pleasant drive* through good countryside. Other specific destinations are within easy reach.

Ripon is a pleasant market town, with a typical open market square and a good cathedral, and to the south west is the most beautiful Fountains Abbey. The best way to approach Fountains is through Studley Park, where sometimes deer *can be seen, and a path* which leads past an artificial lake and an ornamental weir.

Following the water back through pools and the meandering stream, the huge abbey ruin comes as a wonderful surprise. It is one of the largest foundations, created in the twelfth century by Benedictine monks. The wool trade made them extraordinarily wealthy. In *1539 the abbey was sold to* Henry VIII and dissolved. The ruins remained largely intact because there was no large local population to steal the stone. Fountains Hall was built from a small *part of the abbey in 1610.*

It is a pleasant journey through Coxwold to the monks at Ampleforth, particularly if the school is playing cricket, to see their church by Giles Gilbert Scott. Near by is Rievaulx, another abbey ruin, founded in the twelfth century by the Cistercians. It has a magnificent choir and its high walls, still standing, can be seen to good effect through the woods on a high bank called Rievaulx Terrace from a temple folly.

To the east is Castle Howard, which needs a day for itself. It was built by Sir John Vanbrugh for the *third Earl of Carlisle* and is still the home of Mr George Howard, the chairman of the BBC. Vanbrugh was also building Blenheim for the Duke of Marlborough at the time. The castle grounds are *sprinkled with hidden fol*lies and ornamental lakes.

But these are only a small number of treasures in the Yorkshire countryside. There is also good food—try Parkin and genuine York*shire pud,* served as a starter with gravy or cold, with syrup—and excellent beer, from the breweries at Tadcaster and Theakston's. And there is the cheese. As the old Yorkshire rhyme *runs:*

Apple pie without Wensleydale cheese
Is like a kiss without a squeeze.

Nicholas Wapshott

The precipitous city reveals her creamy glory

A *Scotsman* went to Heaven and sought admission on the grounds of his earthly life having been one of stainless rectitude. St Peter consulted his computerized records: "*I see you were a grocer, a* bailie (magistrate) and an elder of the kirk. How very commendable."

"Aye", the Scotsman said. "And I never short-changed a customer, always showed mercy to those miscreants who came before me, and laboured in all my sare moments at the Lord's work." "Excellent", said St Peter, "But is says here you are from Edinburgh." The man agreed he was.

"Very well, you can come in", St Peter said, making to unlock the gates. "But you won't like it much here."

Like dog owners who are said to grow to look like their pets, Edinburghers are said in popular mythology to have assumed the physical attributes of their city: grey, formal and elegant, but cold, dry and windy. *They are said to be like* they are because their parents conceived them while fully clothed. Sex in Edinburgh are things for delivering coal.

It is all a gross calumny put about by Glaswegians jealous of Edinburgh's breeding. Glasgow, like her first cousin and contemporary, Liverpool, is a blowsy but lovable old peasant woman who has lost her looks and most of her teeth in a life of toil, struggle and rape. Edinburgh is no virgin; she had a gay youth, but she has had an easier life, and has fastidiously kept her good looks.

Her high-rise concrete warts are few apart from one monster, the St James's Centre, right in the middle of her face.

Her beauty comes largely from her being an up-and-down sort of place, full of ridges and ravines; from any one place you can see most of the rest. Stevenson, one of an embarrassingly long list of literary sons, called her his precipitous city. And now that she has had a good wash, the Craig*leith sandstone of which she* is built is revealed, not as Presbyterian grey, but as delicious cream.

Since the English last came to ravage her in 1560, some divine providence has sheltered her from enemy bombs, and twentieth century planners. Her oldest standing structure, St Margaret's Chapel, is in sight of its millenium; a newly published list of Britain's historic *buildings* gives Edinburgh 18 columns, as against 10 for the whole of London and a miserly two for Bath. The rules for listing buildings are slightly less rigid in Scotland, but it *is still* an *unrivalled* treasure house of good architecture.

Mind you, the old dowager may have fixed her face but she did not always wash her nethers. It is only three years *since the city* of half a million got herself a sewage treatment plant, and within my short memory her back streets displayed filthy slums to rival Naples. Now the housing is better, and *she no longer flushes* her toilet straight into the Forth estuary.

Even in these hard times, Edinburgh wears a well-fed look. She has never been a slave to a single trade, be it slaves, ships, tobacco or cotton. She makes heavy machinery and woollen socks, surgical sutures and wooden legs, fertilizer and whisky. But her real business is collar-and-tie work: *government, education,* the law and the Kirk. She is a middle-class sort of lady; she has never really *suffered.*

Yet countless great men and women have sprung from her womb—writers, doctors, scientists, philosophers, painters, musicians. The late Sir Edward Appleton, physicist and vice-chancellor of Edinburgh University, believed it had to do with the climate; sharp enough to preserve the brain from decay into lethargy, but not cold enough to sap all energy in keeping warm. A hard theory to take on a February after*noon when the freezing sea* mist creeps in from the Forth to paralyze the unlagged kilt.

Behind her superior exterior, behind those ubiquitous brown roller blinds that Scots erect lest daylight penetrate to fade the carpets, the old lady knows how to enjoy herself—and not just at that annual cultural beanfeast when all the world wants a stage and will happily tread the boards of the most obscure church hall in Leith.

The greatest Scots inventor after James Watt was the man who thought of the licensed grocery store, a great Edinburgh institution. City matrons of outward uprightness have known for generations the value of a discreet request for "a little something under the potatoes" in the weekly shopping order.

After a long Dark Age that began about the time of the First World War and was imposed by a Prime Minister who was, needless to say, Welsh, Edinburgh *has recently emerged* into a new Golden Age of enlightenment, civilization and ease. The pubs no longer shut at 10.

I always felt there was something improper about *being thrown out* of an alehouse while it was still daylight; it was like being caught without your trousers.

But great was it before that time to be alive, and to *be in Milne's Bar then* was very heaven. Dublin, eat your heart out. Where else but Edinburgh could a young man, thirsty for knowledge and McEwan's Eighty-Shilling Heavy, stand *at the public bar with* W. H. Auden, and be thrown into the gutter from the same pub on the same day, with Hugh MacDiarmid?

Alan Hamilton



Princes Street, Edinburgh . . . a city that has fastidiously kept her good looks.

Philippa Toomey

On Design

It's not often that I feel any real affinity with Louis XIV—the wars, the deadly ceremonial, the mistresses do not appeal—but we both have building mania. He was fortunate enough to have Versailles. I'm stuck with my garage. But it's the same old feeling.

Five years ago I bought my house and did it up, as far as I could afford. By its side was a tumbledown wooden shack (rated as a garage) with assorted roofing materials, all of it falling into large holes. It was full of rubbish, some of it my ex-floorboards, some of it left over from previous owners. I shut the doors and left it. Later I inherited some money and a car. I had to have somewhere to house this pretty creature: first, I had to learn to drive.

Fortunately I knew and trusted an architect, who had helped me to convert the house from six bed sitters, to my complete satisfaction. Rosemary Harris lives in Islington, and knows the area well, and what will, or will not be acceptable to planning departments. I asked her to plan and estimate for a garage, and, with the terrible feeling of excitement that comes over a person proposing to spend more money than they actually have, a garage with a room over it, to connect with the house. And this (see below, right) is what she suggested.

Second hand bricks were used, to match the yellowy grey of the existing building, with a slate (or, in fact, slate substitute) mansarded roof. I wanted an up and over door, but the local council, neo-vernacularists all, said it wasn't in keeping with the local tradition, and it had to be wood. My view is that the local tradition is for rusty corrugated iron and very large padlocks, but we left it at that.

There were also problems with the site—a large, battered but beautiful ash tree (rather rare in London) projected out into what would be the drive, and a number of branches had to come down. The District Surveyor, arriving on the scene, said the foundations would have to be dug deeper, because of the roots; and deeper; and deeper. The alternative, felling the tree, I hadn't really thought about, which was just as well. As Rosemary Harris explained to me, they wouldn't have let me build for six months to allow the ground to settle.

Hamlet mentioned the law's delays as a reason for seriously contemplating suicide. I am willing to bet he hadn't anything to do with the building of Elsinore, or he'd have had another for his little list.

The local council took a good six months to pass perfectly straightforward plans, in which time inflation took the price of the building smartly out of my means. Economies were made: I would do the decorating myself, and we would leave two walls unplastered. I suggested to my building society that they might like to lend me a spot more cash. They were amazingly helpful.

Unlike King Louis, whom I expect lived in perfect order in Versailles, I am extremely untidy. Not only do I make patchwork quilts, but I sew, knit and read newspapers. Books flood in, not only from my work but also from the New Fiction Society and publishers, and no 25p shelf is safe from my acquisitive eye. Stacked on the stairs, knee-deep in the dining room, I had to do something about them. In spite of the general carry-on about things being tidy, *tidiness is not a virtue*. (Virtues are humility, liberality, chastity, meekness, temperance, brotherly love and diligence: as they used to say in exams, four may be attempted). The room over the garage was to be the library.

In the end—and anyone who embarks on building works knows that there will be an end, they just doubt it—the garage was finished, the drive was finished, the driveway—two concrete tracks with gravel in between—was finished and it had taken so long that I was in funds again and could afford to have the walls plastered and the wallpapering done. I did the painting—two coats of Sandtex on the exterior wall of the house, now an interior wall, the paintwork (gloss) and two white walls (emulsion).

I had also taken the notion of painting the floor and went off to Arthur Beale, the ship's chandler at the top of Shaftesbury Avenue, for white deck paint. First there was a sealer, then an undercoat, then paint and thinner, in a double decker tin—you opened both and mixed, as in gin and tonic. It cost a fortune, ruined every paint brush, smelled to high heaven (decks are painted in the open air, where it doesn't matter), looked absolutely splendid, and I doubt if I'll ever be troubled with sea worms in the floor or barnacles on the garage ceiling.

A whole new room does exercise the mind about decoration. Should it blend in with the room next door? Should it be yet another black and white room? I settled for a very pretty sharp green and white Laura Ashley paper on one wall and the ceiling with everything else black and white. I was tempted by Sanderson's adaptation of a nineteenth-century chintz pattern from their Anthology collection called "Bengal" (shown here)—pink and blue flowers with green leaves on a cream background—and a companion piece called (of course) "Lancer" in matching colours, in wallpaper and fabric.

I was a little disappointed with the Anthology collection—I do wish there were some adaptations of periods later than the nineteenth century, being, as we are, well into the twentieth; how about some 1930s papers? I decided against "Bengal" because the colours and pattern were very definite, and it might be difficult to put other patterns against it. Also I am against curtains and don't have them if I can possibly avoid them. The very day I chose the Ashley paper a sample of carpet from Afia Carpets in Baker Street came through the letterbox in exactly the right shade of green, so the carpet at £7.85 a yard in wool was ordered, delivered and laid the next week.

This was a minor miracle in itself. The difficulty of getting things delivered if you are not at home (or prepared to be there) 24 hours a day is quite a consideration when you buy. Afia came when they said they would come, before 10 am. The Gas and Electricity Boards refuse to be so specific—they might be along any time between 8.30 and 12. I hope their dentists do the same to them.

Furniture I had—mostly, in the unforgettable New York joke description, "pedigreed junque". Bookcases I had to have. In 1979 I needed a couple and found, in the whitewood department of John Lewis in Oxford Street that they had run out of whitewood and could not really give me a firm delivery date. Running out of whitewood did strike me like running out of bread and butter and sugar all at once, but I went off to Barkers in Kensington and found just the thing. Barkers did well out of me that day. Elated by my success, I went off to have a cup of tea and spent another £100 on the way to the restaurant.

This year I tried John Lewis again, with exactly the same result. I went roaring off to Barkers' basement, and the same nice man sold me seven bookcases—some 30 yards of shelves. It seemed a lot, until I calculated that during the 1979 *Times* closure I had acquired five yards of books on the Stuarts. Barkers said it would take a fortnight, found they could deliver in 10 days. What can I say to John Lewis except that next time I will try Barkers first.

If I had not already had the furniture, and money was no object, I would have gone off to Oscar Woollens in the Finchley Road and said "I'd like *everything*".

As Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Dean Martin sang in *Robin and the Seven Hoods*, a dreadful film I have a sneaking fondness for, "You either have, or you haven't got style" and Oscar Woollens, fuelled by the energy and enthusiasm of Walter Collins, has it. He started the firm just after the war on his army gratuity of £180. Since I first visited him some years ago he has extended the shop to take in five units in the block, pointing out with glee that with the floor raised a yard, you now get a stunning view of the showroom from 400 yards away. The walls and floor are white, there are prints and pictures on the wall, and you may see the best of the best.

He's a pearl-of-great-price man, pointing out that the three-legged chair in ash, oxhide and steel designed by Kjaerholm is in the V and A. There is also an elegantly simple steel and lanyard rope chair by the same designer. I also coveted a Charles Rennie Mackintosh chair, Anthony Stein's glass, a beautiful sofa by the Italian woman designer Cini Boeri, and her 7ft long black table, the top in black glass, a thing of great beauty at £348.

Covetousness, of course, *is* a sin. I would have had the "Chariot" chaise longue by Paul Tuttle in steel and leather at £698 to replace mine, (£18 from outside a junk shop 10 years ago), a whole wall of Interlubke shelves, with their office and desk fitment, and the bar, in black, two "Octave" chairs shown here, by Collins and Hayes in cream (from £430 each), or perhaps the same firm's "Alto" chair, also in cream (from £380), to replace my two cane chairs (£20 each from Karpin Brothers in the Balls Pond Road).

I would love to have the three cornered table, so extraordinarily adaptable, by Stefan Wewerka and the three-cornered matching chairs, shown here. I would keep the carpet and the wallpaper.

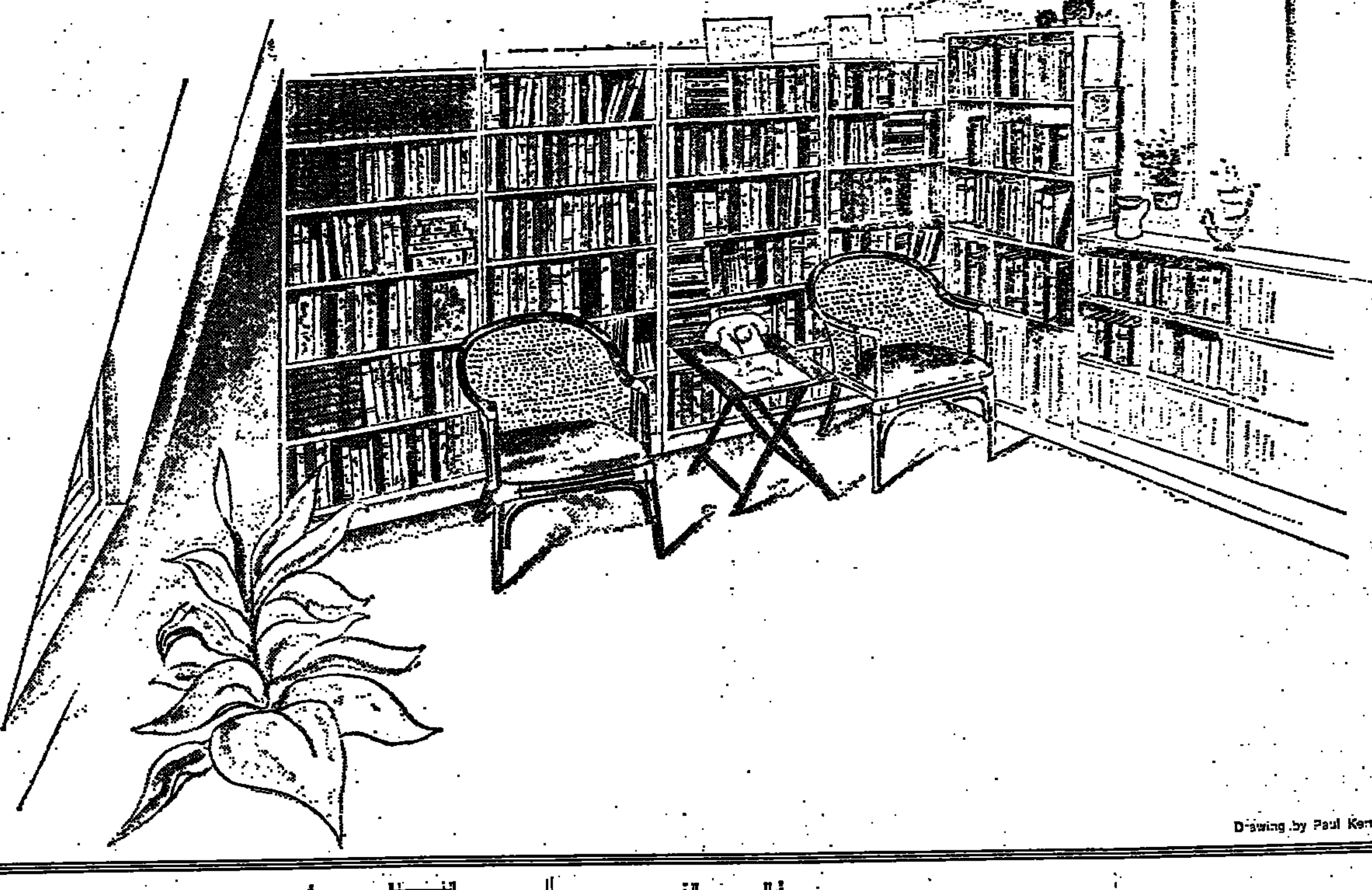
I could wish that one of our museums had a design award, as the Museum of Modern Art in New York does. It really is an accolade to be included in the MOMA Design Collection, and accepted this year are items as varied as a Minolta underwater camera, Henry Altchek's bottle opener and pottery by Lucie Rie. The V and A buys from Mr Collins but it would be nice to know what they buy, and why.

How would you do if you had to buy from a catalogue? Habitat also has style, and while they couldn't supply me with a chaise longue I could have two single Baluff chairs in pale grey, two corner chairs in dark grey to make a small sofa (single units £79, corner units £99) and the same amount of shelving in the Olga range—it's Quick Assembly, which means you put it together yourself—£42 for the six-shelf unit, £23 for the low, two-shelf unit.

I could still paint the floor white and have several of their handwoven rugs—which vary in price from £72.50 to a modest £9.45. The snag, for me, comes in the instructions for orders. "Please note that to a large extent, we rely on the Post Office and outside carriers to deliver merchandise to you. Therefore deliveries cannot be made on specific days or times." It always astonishes me in New York to find that the supermarket and the liquor store will deliver within half an hour of your telephone order. Can't something be done to make things easier for the customer here?

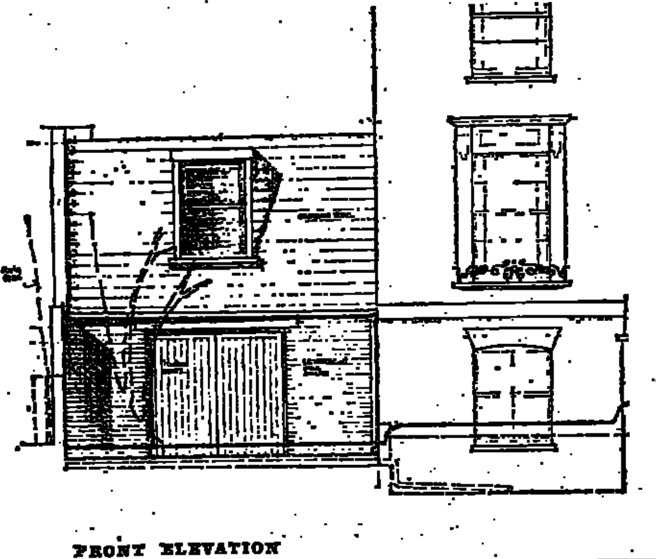
No more complaints, but a suggestion: while I can find nice, attractive and well-designed lighting—John Lewis provided me with all the lamps I wanted at extremely competitive prices, and I carried all three of them home on the bus—why can't I find a really beautiful electric fire? My American relations produced with pride something they called a "quartz" portable fire, which looked just like an electric fire to me, but it was vertical, not horizontal, and took up far less space and threw out a great deal of heat. I seemed to remember seeing a vertical electric fire in the Eileen Gray exhibition at the V and A, but when I came to look at my catalogue, I couldn't find it. Was it only wishful thinking? Are electric fires designed, or do they just grow?

Into each life some rain must fall. The GLC building regulations require that an air-vent sufficient to produce a howling gale is fitted to my brand new windows. With one breath they implore you to insulate your house, with the next they ensure that you can feel the blast as you open the front door. To get into my garage you have to back down a slope, round a tree and in. "It will take practice", say my kindly neighbours, as they offer to back my car in for me. They can't bear the sight of me stopping the engine, leaving the handbrake on, falling off the concrete tracks into the gravel and digging myself in. Finally my amiable builder came and added another eight inches to the width of the tracks. I bet Louis XIV never parked a coach and four in his life.



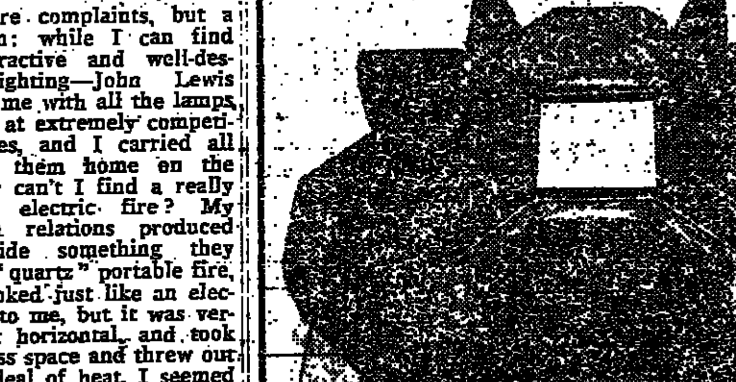
Drawing by Paul Kern

Lancer, £6.21 a roll, and Bengal, £5.29 a roll from Sandersons. Fabric £5.80 a metre.



BACK ELEVATION

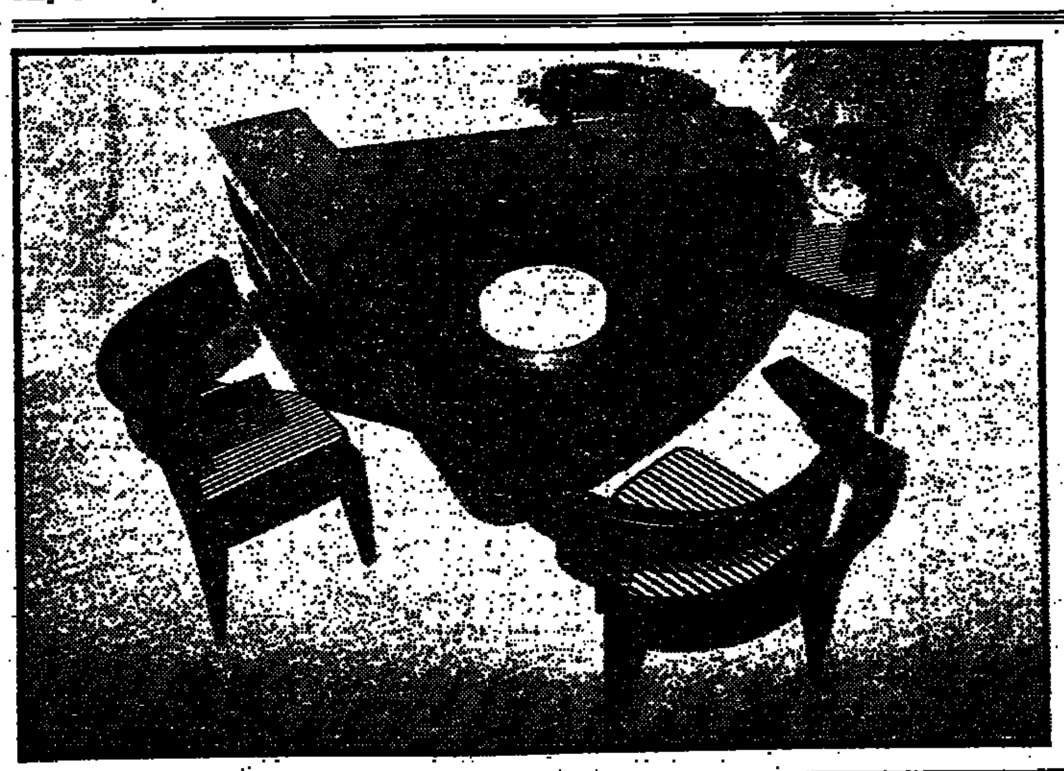
Above: Four bookcases from Barkers at £44.50 each.
Left: Design for garage and room above, fore and aft, by Rosemary Harris.
Right: Interlubke arrangement of desk available from Oscar Woollens.
Below right: Octave chairs from Oscar Woollens and Harrods.

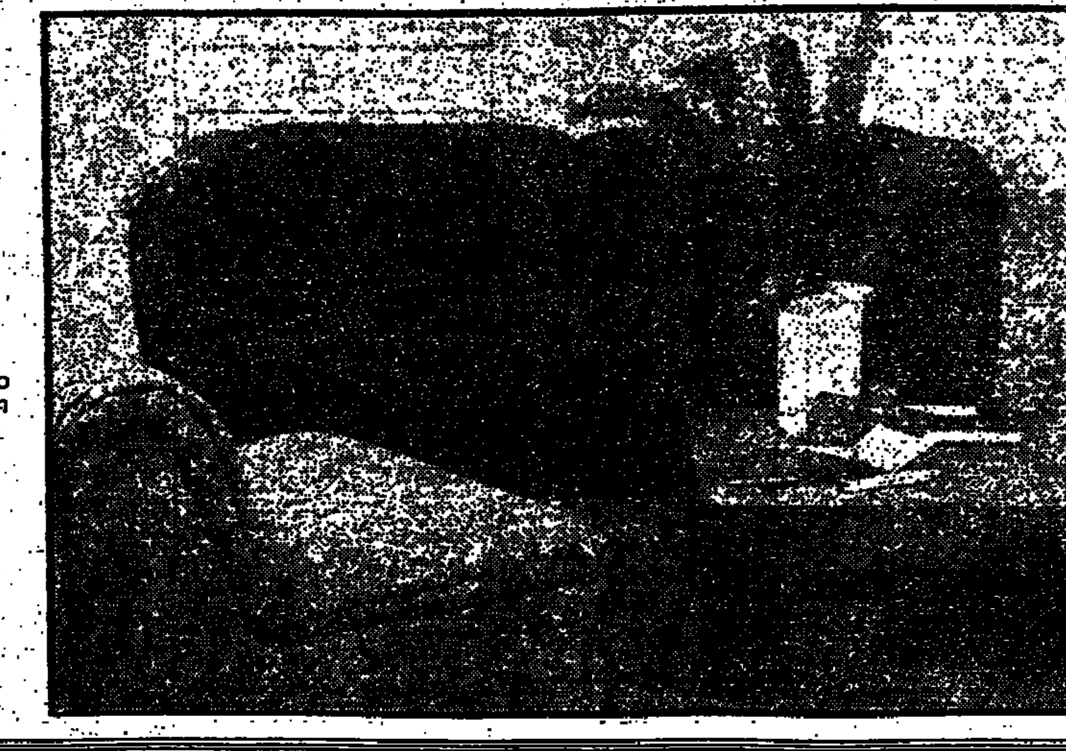


Below: Alto chair from Oscar Woollens and Harrods.
Right: Olga Shelving from Habitat.

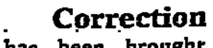








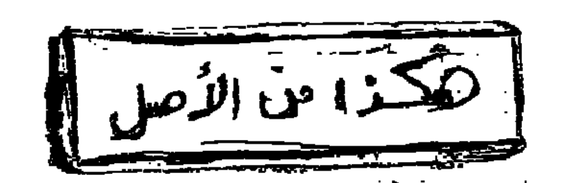
Left: Table and chairs designed by Stefan Wewerka, from Oscar Woollens.
Right: One Single and two corner Baluff chairs from Habitat available in nine colours.



Correction

It has been brought to o[ur] attention that a number [of] paragraphs in the Kitch[en] Shoparound articles by Ca[r] Bowen on October 11 and had been taken without ackno[w]ledgment from the House [&] Gardens Real Life Kitch[en] Guide which is the copyright [of] the Conde Nast Publicatio[ns] Limited. We now acknowled[ge] that those paragraphs infring[e] such copyright and we and Mi[ss] Bowen apologize for a[ny] embarrassment or annoyan[ce] which the infringement m[ay] have caused.

Beryl Downing is on holiday



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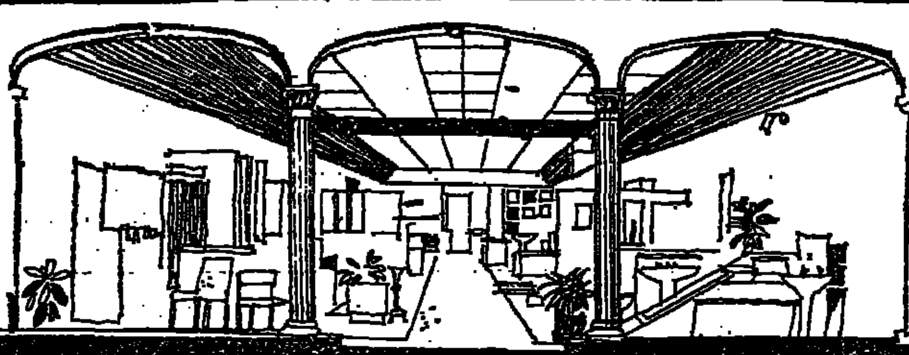


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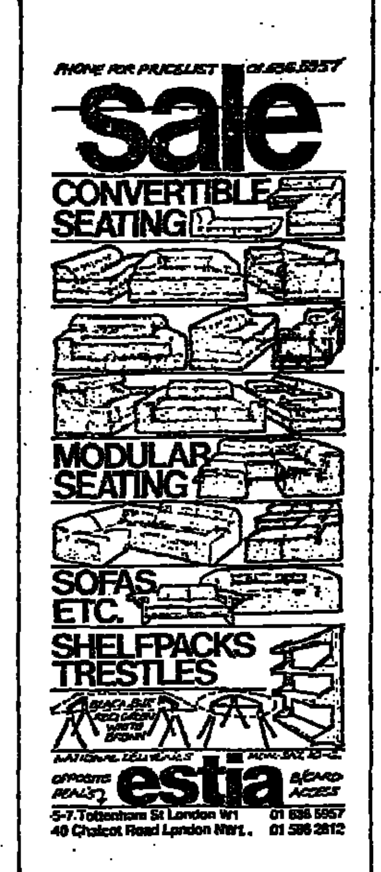


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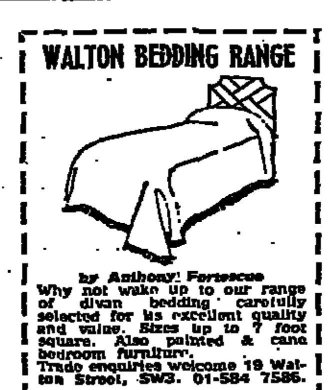
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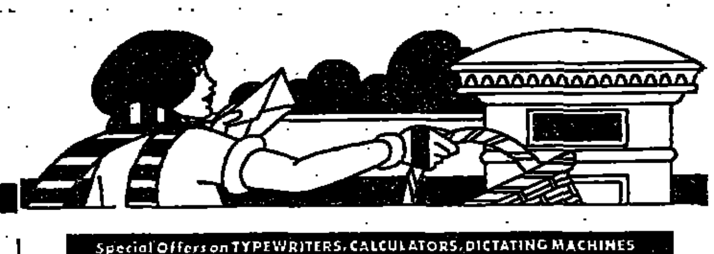
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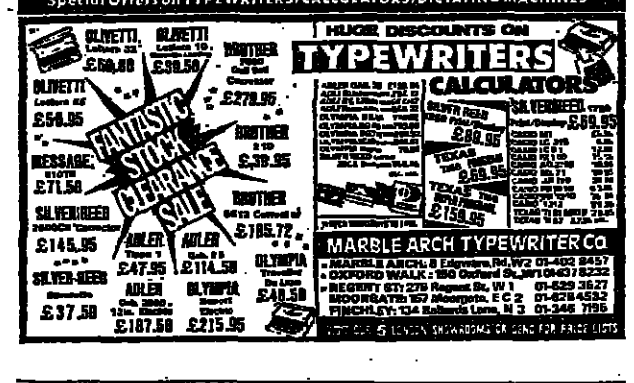
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MACLEAN, Joan Evelyn Alexander, of Flat 42, 22 Park Crescent, London, W1, died on 25th December, 1980. Particulars to Lickfolds Wiley & Powles, Solicitors, of 7 Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W1Y 2BX, before 24th March, 1981.

No. 005380 of 1980
In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, in the Matter of PLANTIME Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948

Notice is hereby given that a PETITION was on the 15th December 1980 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the REDUCTION of the CAPITAL of the above-named Company from £1,500,000 to £794,186.

And Notice is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr Justice Nourse at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2, on Monday the 26th day of January 1981.

Any CREDITOR or SHAREHOLDER of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of Capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A Copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 14th day of January 1981.

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Solicitors for the said Company.

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(continued on page 28)

PARLIAMENT, January 16, 1981

Overcoming secrecy in government: MPs given an undertaking

House of Commons

If there was widespread general concern regarding an alleged ministerial refusal to disclose information to a select committee, time would be provided for the House to express its view on the matter, Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House, stated.

He gave the undertaking when he spoke during the debate on a motion which proposed that if a request for papers or records was refused the matter could, as a last resort, be debated in the Commons and the request be voted on as an Order of the House. The motion was withdrawn.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab), who is chairman of the Select Committee on Education and Science, in moving the motion on the powers of select committees, said no reasonable sanction existed if ministers refused to accede to a select committee request for papers and records. The new committees scrutinizing the work of Government departments were simply made eunuchs without this sanction.

His motion followed a recommendation of the procedure committee. It had worked out a sensible moderate measure based on precedent. In the nineteenth century it was quite common for backbenchers to move for the return of papers. That power was swept away, as were so many powers, in the Balfour reforms of 1902.

They were talking about information in the possession of that monopoly holder in many cases, the various departments of state. This should be made as available to Parliament as it was to ministers so that Parliament could join with government in taking decisions about what should happen.

When the Government introduced select committees it only half set them up because it did not give the committees the sanction they needed.

It was not so much that the Government was all powerful viz-a-viz Parliament but that the Civil Service was all too powerful viz-a-viz Parliament. They needed to redress this balance to a certain extent. Select committees needed the power to do their job properly.

Mr Edward du Cann (Taunton C) said the special committee system was proving itself by the quality of its reports. The House was better informed and as a result the public had become better informed. They had been effective in getting the "sus" law changed and changing the way in which pay was dealt with in the public services.

He was totally in sympathy with the spirit of what Mr Price had proposed concerning ministers producing papers for select committees but did not think now was the moment to go that far.

In general it had for too long been the ordinary habit of government and of the executive to be obsessive over matters of secrecy. There must be a move towards a more open form of government. It had gone too far the other way.

It should be plainly understood that select committees were not seeking conflict with ministers or civil servants but rather an alliance in order to get a more effective administration.

If he thought at any time ministers were deliberately holding back cooperation which select committees were seeking or committee representatives were treated with less than the respect they deserved and must have, he would come to the House demanding support to change the situation.

Mr Michael English (Nottingham, West, Lab) said that too much secrecy was a clog on the workings of government. Even ministers were forbidden to see documents that their predecessors in another administration had seen and were allowed to have only a summary. This did not exist in any other country and it illustrated the extent of the passion for secrecy in Britain. Secrecy was one of the causes of poor administration.

Mr Robert Banks (Harrogate, C) said defence secrets were an area of particular sensitivity. He would hope that any select committee in dealing with this area would take special account of the fact that defence secrets were vital to the security of the country.

Defence was a question of surprise and bluff in most cases. If one gave away information which could be of use to a potential adversary one would probably cost the country a great deal of money.

Mr Charles Morris, for the opposition (Manchester, Openshaw, Lab) said the nation, and particularly MPs, found that government administration operated on occasions in a rather perverse manner. The passion for secrecy, so manifest in some Civil Service departments, was generated by the accountability of some civil servants to ministers and to the House.

At times the course of Civil Service administrations was the propensity to double bank everything because of accountability.

Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C) said it was a most valuable and important motion. If they could release the information that was at the heart of government decision, not only to MPs but to the public, the quality of their discussions and deliberations would be infinitely improved.

Mr John Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme, Lab) said the importance of the development of select committees was in making ministers and officials more accountable.

Accountability was at the heart of the parliamentary democratic process. Question time had become too easy for ministers. The rules they had developed meant that there was no in depth probing of ministers.

He would like to see television coverage of the select committees.

Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House (Cambridgeshire, C) said he remained in favour of the principle of a more systematic method of monitoring the executive. In their election manifesto the Conservatives undertook to ensure that Parliament only should stand at the centre of the nation's life and decisions.

He had kept in mind three principles. One was that the history of this unique institution had changed over the decades, but changed by evolution.

Another was that they must never forget the principle on which Parliament operated and the responsibility ministers had in the House where they were answerable. Nothing must alter that.

Thirdly, the resources to assist select committees must be adequate but not more than adequate. There was a temptation, in creating a new organization, to demand more and more support with the danger, almost, of creating another Civil Service.

The new system was a huge advance in procedures. Guidance to officials appearing before committees emphasized as a general principle that their duty was to be as helpful as possible and that withholding information should be limited to reservations in the interests of good government or to safeguard national security.

The guidance emphasized that the responsibility for deciding if particular information should be disclosed rested with ministers and not officials.

Our record in carrying out this cooperation (he said) is good.

The Government would be seen to have set new standards of frankness with the House.

It had been a long-established convention that information should not be divulged to a select committee about an individual's private affairs or about advice given to ministers by their departments.

In the quest for the release of more and more information and more and more confidential information, it must remain cardinal that ministers remained responsible to the House and must not be put in a position where that became difficult or impossible.

Neither, he assured the House, would confidentiality be used as a veil for official incompetence.

In practice select committees proceeded informally. They requested and invited; they rarely ordered. Although rarely used they had formal powers to call for persons, papers and records.

The effect of the motion would be that select committees would be given the power to enforce a debate on the floor of the House and given the power to determine the business of the House. This would be wrong in principle.

He gave the undertaking, however, that if there was widespread general concern in the House regarding an alleged ministerial refusal to disclose information to a select committee he would provide time for the House to express its view on the matter.

Ministers already complied with requests unless they considered there were strong public arguments to the contrary that they would be prepared to justify, if necessary, to the House.

They should continue without further change at any rate for the moment. He advised the House against acceptance of the motion. They should give the new system with all its shortcomings and imperfections more time before they started adjusting it.

The motion was withdrawn.

House adjourned 2.55 pm.

Payment of export refunds on whisky blocked

European Parliament
Strasbourg

A procedural move led by the French Communists prevented a vote being taken on the proposal to pay whisky manufacturers export refunds on the cereal content of their products.

The payments, amounting to about £60m, were part of the package deal agreed in Luxembourg last May on farm prices and Britain's contribution to the Community budget.

For the payments to be put into effect, the Commission needed an opinion from the Parliament on the proposal. Irrespective of what that opinion was, the Council of Ministers could then implement last May's decision.

The proposal has been opposed, mainly by the French and Germans, on the grounds that it discriminates against non grain-based spirit producers and there have been calls for it to be delayed until agreement on an overall common organization of the Community alcohol market.

After a short debate on the proposal, M Maurice Martin (France, Comm) successfully called for a quorum vote on the first amendment moved by the French gaullists, which called for the refunds to be paid only after a community alcohol regime had come into force.

For the vote to be valid, a majority of MEPs (218) had to take part in it. This figure was not reached. Discussion on the matter was therefore closed, no opinion was delivered, and it will come up again next month.

During the debate, Mr James Provan (North-East Scotland, ED) said the treaty of accession for the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland said the regulation to give export refunds could be taken either within the framework of the common organization of the market in cereals, or of that in alcohol.

As they had not been able to reach agreement on the alcohol regime it was fair that whisky producers should be looked after, and it was quite unjust that since 1973 export restitutions of the cereal content of whisky had not been paid.

Scottish producers had massive exports of whisky to the Canadian and American markets where they faced severe competition. By passing this proposal they could help them fight this competition.

M Pierre Prancher (France, Comm) said the proposal was dangerous to all wine-growers. In the absence of an alcohol regime it should be rejected. In trying to speed up these payments to whisky producers, the Commission was trying to get rid of some high quality wines and dismantle the French agricultural industry.

Mr John Marshall (London, North, ED) said it was difficult to understand the opposition to the proposal. The rebates were a quid pro quo for agricultural price increases. These had been put into effect and if the rebates were not paid quickly, people would feel let down. He hoped no one would play procedural games.

Mr Frans Andriessen, Commissioner for competition policy, said the commission had not been able to bring forward the proposal earlier than the end of November because of its complex and technical nature. He hoped parliament would approve it. They had to keep to agreements which had been entered into.

The report of the Committee on Energy and Research, debated yesterday, was carried.

"THEN JESUS . . . saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see."—St. John 1: 38, 39

BIRTHS

BEAUDETTE.—On January 10th, 1981, at St. David's Hospital, Cardiff, to Katherine (nee Myers) and Gerald—a son (Henry Edward).

FLECKNEY.—On January 16th at Pembury Hospital, to Maureen and John—a son, William Terence Springford, co-conspirator for Jane and Jimmy.

HENSAGE.—On January 15th, to Chauhagh (nee Colthurst) and Thomas—a daughter.

KERR-LIDDELL.—On 14th January, at St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, to Elizabeth (nee Gisborne) and Stubbard—a daughter, a sister for Eyvoll, Rowan and Susan.

LEAR.—On 15th January, to Harriet (nee Debenham) and Nick—a son (Michael).

LINGARD.—On 14th January, to Duncan and Catey—a daughter, Hannah Catherine, at Nottingham City Hospital.

RICHARDSON.—On December 23rd, 1980, at Deauville, to Mireille and Tim—a daughter.

TUCKETT.—On January 8th to Georgina (nee Scott) and John—a daughter (Caroline Sybil Elizabeth).

BIRTHDAYS

BLUE DRAGON 19 in 81 = 100% —M.

CLARE, MUSSELLWHITE.—20 today. Happy birthday, love Roger.

HILARY.—Patrick strikes again! Who? Happy 21st, 6FC rules—not long to go! All my love Q.

DEATHS

BALLANTYNE.—At War Memorial Hospital, Peebles, on 16th January, 1981, Colin John ...

RICHARDSON.—On January 14th, 1981, peacefully in Stroud Hospital, Austin, late of Beaudesert Park School, aged 76. Dear brother of Barton and Enid. Funeral service at Holy Trinity, Amberley, on Monday, January 19th, at 2.30 p.m.

RIGG.—On 12th January, 1981, at home in Bermuda after a long illness borne with great strength and courage, J. Harold, of West Chiltington, formerly of Karachi and Singapore. Funeral service in Bermuda, private cremation. Donations if desired to Bermuda National Trust.

RUNDELL, JOAN DIANA IRENE.—On 15th January at 72 Redcliffe Gardens, London, SW10. Much loved wife of Kenneth and mother of Peter and Michael. Funeral service, Holy Trinity, Brompton, Tuesday, 20th January, at 11 a.m.

STOREY.—On 12th January 1981, Kenneth Lushington Storey, of The Old Mill, Broadway, aged 93 years, elder son of the late Herbert Lushington Storey of Lancaster, and husband of the late "Sis" (nee Alice de Freville). Cremation has taken place. There will be no memorial service, at his very special request. Donations, if desired, to the National Coursing Club, 35/37 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1N 0BS, or to Mrs. L. Shennan, the Dairy Cottage, Siddington, Cirencester, Glos.

STRICKLAND, EMILY MAUD.—On January 9th, 1981, in her 93rd year, widow of Charles John Strickland. Survivors daughter Sybil Vermala and granddaughter Alexandra Vermala. Resting at Truelove and Sons, Coulsdon. Funeral service Streatham Park Cemetery, Monday, January 19th, 1981, at 4.30 p.m.

WESTAWAY.—On January 12th, 1981, suddenly in Cheltenham, Helene Marguerite Alice, aged 91, wife of the late Edward Victor Westaway. Funeral private.

WHITEHEAD.—On January 16th, Dr. Brian Loder of The Cottage, Downton, Nr. Salisbury, Wilts. Adored husband of Faithlian, much loved father of Jennifer, Kirreen, Miranda, Sarah and Thomas. Funeral at St. Lawrence Church, Downton, at 2.00 p.m. ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,426

ACROSS

1 Sounds like the path leading to the altar (6).
5 Hair spring inside to go wrong (8).
9 But such a novelist has a classical spasm (8).
10 Seen to suffer imprisonment (6).
11 A note to the head would be expedient (8).
12 Felt uneasy with the CID looking curious (6).
13 From a cell to a different place (8).
15 Let uncle have a piece (4).
17 Skier's tempo-reducer, to some extent (4).
19 The least you can say (8).
20 Linked somehow to light (6).
21 Uniform with an air in one of the services (8).
22 Doctor's job 'ere in London (6).
23 Turn from painting back to poetry (8).
24 Victualler quietly beheaded building inspector (8).
25 Melodious sound of stupid order to dog (6).

DOWN

2 In 1965 the subject of an unlimited audit (8).
3 One who translates female attire ultimately into male (8).
4 Delayed recovery of side (9).
5 Supplier of travellers' checks (6-9).
6 Staff exciting respect (7).
7 HMS Stone, of Yangtse fame (8).
8 Was partial to liquor — but bandsman could carry it (4-4).
14 A high level of ballet perhaps also (9).
15 Hitch-hiker's request for a drink (4-2-2).
16 Argumentative mathematician (8).
17 The ocean's lower regions, home of the whelk and such (3-5).
18 Fade out Miss St Clare—change scene (8).
19 Gag you won't hear (7).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,425

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